



BOROUGH OF ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

School Medical Officer

For the Year 1928.

F. C. LINTON, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Tunbridge Wells :
BALDWIN, GROSVENOR WORKS.

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BOROUGH OF ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

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Mr. Alderman CALEY.
Mr. Alderman CARPENTER.
Councillor Miss BAKER.

Mr. Councillor HARGREAVES.
Mr. Councillor OATEN.
Councillor Miss POWER.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE :*

Mr. Alderman CARPENTER (Chairman).

THE MAYOR (Mr. Alderman SNELL).

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Mr. Councillor BOOTES.
Mr. Councillor HEMPSON.
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Councillor Miss POWER.
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STAFF :

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

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F. HICKS.

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Health Visitors :

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Miss E. RICE OXLEY.

Miss M. MACLAREN.
Miss E. A. MEAKINS.

Matron of the Isolation Hospital :

Miss E. BROCKLEHURST.

Public Analyst :

A. H. M. MUTER, F.I.C.

Medical Officer for Ante-Natal Clinic :

MARGARET EMSLIE, M.B., CH.B.

Medical Officer for Orthopædic Clinic :

C. A. HORDER, M.A., M.B., F.R.C.S.

Medical Officer of Health and Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare :

F. C. LINTON, M.A., M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

* The present constitution of Committees is given above.

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*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of
Royal Tunbridge Wells.*

REPORT UPON THE PUBLIC HEALTH OF THE
:: BOROUGH DURING THE YEAR 1928. ::

This Report is the fifteenth submitted since my appointment as Medical Officer to the Borough.

The year was free from notable outbreaks of infectious disease : influenza was fairly widespread in spring, but was of a less severe type than in 1927. Chicken-pox and whooping-cough were moderately prevalent, measles and mumps almost absent, throughout the year.

Rainfall exceeded the average, largely owing to a fall of seven inches in October.

Bright sunshine—1,810 hours 18 minutes—was in excess of any hitherto recorded at the Corporation's Meteorological Station. This figure made Tunbridge Wells an easy first in respect of sunshine amongst inland health resorts in these islands.

The establishment of a Public Cleansing Station was a notable health development during the year.

Further advances were made in Maternity and Child Welfare work. In particular, I would call attention to the circumstance that already 23 per cent. of Tunbridge Wells births take place in the Maternity Home, established only four years ago. Unfortunately, many applicants have now to be refused owing to lack of accommodation at the Home. The question of extension is now under consideration.

I desire to thank all who have assisted in the work of the Public Health Department, not only my Staff and Colleagues, but also the Members of the Town Council, and in particular those Members who serve upon the Health Committee, for the encouragement which I have derived from their active interest in and sympathy with the work of the Department.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F. C. LINTON.

1.—General Statistics.

CENSUS 1921	{	Area (acres), 3,991.
		Population, 35,568 (preliminary figure).
		„ 34,270, corrected for holiday population by Registrar-General.
		Number of structurally separate sets of premises intended or used for habitation, 8,178.
		Number of separate occupiers, 8,774.

Population, mid-year, 1928, 34,820 (Registrar-General).

Number of houses intended or used for habitation 8,675

Number of inhabited houses 8,554

Rateable value, £378,931.

Sum represented by a penny rate :—

On Borough Rate £1,480

On General District Rate £1,460

Mean annual temperature, F. 50.3.

Total rainfall, 33.88 inches.

Hours of bright sunshine, 1,810 hours, 18 minutes.

2.—Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

			Total.	Males.	Females.
Births—Legitimate	...	...	381	189	192
„ Illegitimate	...	...	28	15	13
Still Births	...	...	12	7	5

Birth rate (Registrar-General)

11.7 per thousand.

Deaths 522 211 311

Crude death rate (Registrar-General)—15.0.

Death rate corrected for age and sex constitution, 11.0 per thousand (factor for correction, 0.731).

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, child birth—
—from sepsis, 2 ; from other causes, nil.

Deaths of infants under one year of age, per 1,000 births :—

Legitimate, 44.6 ; Illegitimate, 107.2. Total, 48.9.

		Total.	Males.	Females.
Deaths from	Meales (all ages) ...	—	—	—
„	„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	1	1	—
„	„ Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years of age)	3	—	3

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

1.—Population.

The population at mid-year in 1928, as estimated by the Registrar-General, was 34,820, as compared with the estimate of 33,870 in 1927. During the year 100 houses have been built in Tunbridge Wells, and 99 more houses are inhabited than was the case previously. The present figure more nearly approaches my estimate of the actual population. The birth and death rates are calculated upon the Registrar-General's figure, so that uniformity may be maintained with returns throughout the kingdom.

2.—Physical Features and General Character.

The Borough of Royal Tunbridge Wells covers 3,991 acres. It is built upon hills, the altitude above sea level varying from 220 feet at the bottom of the valley in which the historic mineral springs are situated, to 500 feet at the Blackhurst Collecting Reservoir; most of the houses stand at a level between 300 and 450 feet. Its climate is therefore breezy and bracing, with sheltered spots for those who live in the valleys. It lies in the extreme south-west corner of Kent, $34\frac{1}{2}$ miles from London. The sub-soil is mostly sandstone, the geological layer known as Tunbridge Wells sands predominating. The water supplies for the Borough are drawn from a deeper sandstone layer known as the Hastings sandstone: the supply is pure and soft. During the year 1926, sanction was obtained from the Ministry of Health to open a new borewell so as to increase the amount

available ; this work is now in progress and samples taken from the trial borewell in September, 1928, gave satisfactory results on testing, chemically and bacteriologically.

3.—Meteorological Notes.

The records of the Municipal Meteorological Station, which is one of the official auxiliary stations reporting to the Meteorological Office, are kept by the staff of the Health Department and have been so kept since 1st July, 1914. The instruments are situated in the Calverley Park, with the exception of the Sunshine Recorder, which is established on the roof tower of the Earl's Court Hotel, Mount Ephraim, and the Standard Barometer, kept in the Health Office.

The readings are taken by Mr. W. P. Cave and Mr. E. J. A. Bettle, members of the Staff of the Health Department.

The annual inspection of the station by an inspector of the Meteorological Office took place on 9th June and the report on the station was satisfactory.

The total amount of sunshine recorded was 1,810 hours 18 minutes. This constitutes a record since readings have been taken at the present station (1914). The mean amount is 1,540 hours 36 minutes. The most sunny day was 12th July, when 15 hours 30 minutes were recorded. There were 72 sunless days, 70 being the average.

The highest temperature in the sun was 146 degrees, on 16th July.

The mean temperature in the shade for the year was 50.3 degrees, 49.3 degrees being the average.

The mean daily range was 15.2, the average being 14.6.

The temperature in the shade four feet above the ground, was highest, 88 degrees, on 15th July, and lowest, 20 degrees, on 12th March.

The temperature in the shade first reached :—

60 degrees on 4th March.

70 „ „ 26th April.

80 „ „ 12th July.

last reached—

80 „ „ 8th September.

70 „ „ 18th September.

60 „ „ 24th October.

The hottest night was on 25th July, when the temperature did not go below 62 degrees.

The last frost in the air in spring was on 10th May, and the first in the autumn was on 14th October. The last on the grass in spring was on 17th June, and the first in the autumn was on 20th September.

The rainfall amounted to 33.88 inches, the average being 30.61 inches. It fell on 175 days, the average being 173.

The most rain that fell on one day was 1.09 inches on 21st October.

The wind at 9 a.m. was N. 35 days, N. E. 47 days, E. 16 days, S. E. 28 days, S. 54 days, S.W. 110 days, W. 33 days, N. W. 43 days.

The mean amount of cloud at 9 a.m. was 6.4, 6.8 being the average; ten representing overcast sky. Thunder and lightning occurred on 6 days.

There were 9 fogs, and it was misty on 39 other mornings.

METEOROLOGICAL NOTES.

Months.	Sunshine.		Rainfall. In Inches.		Mean Temperature. In shade, 4ft. above ground.		Temperature Underground.			
	1928.		1928.		1928.		One Foot.		Four Feet.	
	Hrs. Mins.	14 Year Average.	1928.	48 Year Average.	1928.	38 Year Average.	1928.	28 Year Average.	1928.	14 Year Average.
January ...	61 24	Hrs. Mins. 49 54	3.54	2.61	°F 40.9	°F 38.6	°F 40.2	°F 39.8	°F 43.6	°F 44.1
February ...	116 12	69 54	1.47	2.33	42.7	39.6	41.6	39.6	43.4	43.2
March ...	101 30	111 30	1.81	2.38	43.7	41.8	43.9	41.9	44.6	43.8
April ...	136 30	139 6	2.99	2.01	47.2	46.5	47.2	46.6	46.7	46.0
May ...	188 48	218 18	1.18	1.90	52.1	53.0	53.3	54.1	50.7	50.6
June ...	231 0	203 24	2.89	2.02	56.5	57.7	58.8	59.9	55.2	55.8
July ...	314 42	200 12	1.60	2.33	63.9	61.4	64.0	63.1	59.6	58.7
August ...	217 36	182 48	3.08	2.38	61.3	62.4	62.3	62.6	61.0	60.3
September ...	227 6	150 48	0.58	2.24	56.9	56.9	58.6	58.6	59.8	59.2
October ...	103 12	109 24	7.09	3.67	51.9	50.1	53.3	52.6	56.1	56.0
November ...	66 30	64 6	4.14	3.36	47.0	43.2	48.7	45.5	52.2	50.7
December ...	45 48	41 12	3.51	3.38	39.0	40.0	42.3	41.7	44.0	45.9
WHOLE YEAR	1810 18	1540 36	33.88	30.61	50.3	49.3	51.2	50.5	51.4	51.2

4.—Social Conditions.

Tunbridge Wells is a residential town to which many persons retire from business to spend the latter part of their lives ; it also serves as a residential town for London business men, for whom there is a good train service to town in the morning, and back in the evening ; and it is a large shopping centre. The occupations of the inhabitants are governed by these conditions ; there are no large factories, but there are numerous motor works and garages ; house painters, builders, builders' labourers, gardeners, drivers and conductors of motor chars-a-banc, and for the female population, laundries and domestic service. There are also many shop assistants of both sexes, as Tunbridge Wells is a shopping centre for a considerable area. Some of the inhabitants are employed at the Tunbridge Wells Brickworks situated just outside the Borough boundary ; the Photochrome Works employ a number of girls.

5.—Recreations.

The large and breezy Commons in the centre of the town form a perpetual source of pleasure and of interest to visitors and inhabitants alike. Numerous healthful recreations are provided ; in Calverley Park, situated in the centre of the town, the Corporation provides an attractive pleasure ground in which tennis courts, a miniature golf course and a bowling green are all available. Bands play daily during the summer season. In addition, facilities for tennis and bowls are provided in other public parks. There are two golf courses within the Borough boundary, viz. :—the Culverden (18 holes) and the Spa (9 holes), and a third, Nevill Golf Course (18 holes), is situated within easy access just outside the Borough boundary. There are ample facilities for football and cricket, county matches being played here during Cricket Week in June. Facilities for swimming are provided at the Indoor Baths and at the Open-Air Bath.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.—From figures supplied by the Registrar-General the total numbers of births *registered* as properly belonging to Tunbridge Wells is 409 (204 males, 205 females). This corresponds to a rate of 11.7 per thousand, as compared with 12.8 per thousand in 1927. With the exception of the rate in the war year 1917, this is the lowest birth rate yet recorded in the Borough. Fifteen males and 13 females were born out of wedlock, giving an illegitimate rate of 6.8 per cent. as compared with 5.1 per cent. in 1927.

The births *notified* during the year as occurring in the Borough numbered 495 and consisted of 235 males and 260 females ; of these, 7 males and 5 females were stillborn.

The increase in the number of births *notified* is accounted for by births in the Maternity Home, which caters for a wide district around Tunbridge Wells, as well as for the Borough itself.

Deaths.—537 deaths were registered in the Borough during 1928, and there were 105 outwardly transferable deaths and 90 inward transfers, thus making the total number of deaths belonging to the district 522. This gives a crude death rate of 15.0 per thousand.

The Registrar-General has supplied the proper correction figure (0.731) as obtained from the last census returns, and the true or corrected death rate is thus seen to be 11.0 per thousand ; this is a correction for age and sex distribution of the population. In the case of a health resort attractive to elderly persons and to invalids, it is necessary that the *corrected* death rate should be used in making comparisons with the death rate in the country generally. The uncorrected rate in the case of a town in which so many old people reside naturally gives a false impression of the health value of the locality. Table I. on page 19 compares the births and deaths

rates, etc., for England and Wales and various groups of towns, Tunbridge Wells figures being inserted below. The Borough death rate, 11.0, compares favourably with 11.7, the figure for the kingdom generally.

The death rate of 11.0 is fractionally lower than that of 1927, but is considerably higher than in 1926, when the figure was 9.9. Again over 300 deaths at the age of 65 and upwards occurred. People live longer, but are not immortal, hence it is probable that a stage has been reached at which the death rate of a town like Tunbridge Wells has attained its lowest point, and that the much larger accumulation of elderly persons will now have the inevitable result of causing a gradual rise in the death rate, such as is anticipated will take place in the United Kingdom generally in the course of the next few years. This does not affect the gradual reduction in the number of deaths under 65, which it is hoped will continue.

Table showing the average number of Deaths at several ages for consecutive periods of five years.

	1896 to 1900.	1901 to 1905.	1906 to 1910.	1911 to 1915.	1916 to 1920.	1921 to 1925.	1926.*	1927*	1928*
Deaths at under 1 year ...	72	57	46	40	36	23	28	21	20
„ 1 and under 2 } ...	25	29	23	16	{ 6	3	6	4	6
„ 2 „ 5 } ...	21	11	10	16	{ 9	5	3	8	4
„ 5 „ 15 ...	20	13	14	12	15	6	6	7	9
„ 15 „ 25 ...	121	141	141	145	{ 47	36	44	37	36
„ 25 „ 45 } ...	107	104	104	119	138				
„ 45 „ 65 } ...	154	178	205	234	245	276	268	323	301
„ 65 and upwards ...									

* The Mortality for 1926, 1927 and 1928 is inserted for comparison.

Heart disease, respiratory diseases, cancer, influenza and tuberculosis were amongst the chief causes of death.

Infectious Diseases.—Influenza was less sharp and less fatal than in 1927, but was by no means a negligible quantity. Chicken-pox, whooping cough and scarlet fever were relatively

prevalent during the year, whilst mumps, measles and German measles were almost entirely absent. It was not found necessary to close any school or class on account of infectious disease. The infant death rate was practically the same as in 1927.

Congenital debility and malformations accounted for more than half the deaths of infants which occurred.

A table is appended shewing the actual number of deaths from different causes in five-yearly periods from 1886 onwards.

DEATHS FROM

Five-Yearly Period.	Cancer.	Tubercu- losis.		Infec- tious Diseases.	Vio- lence.	In- fluenza.
		Pul- mon- ary.	Non- Pul- mon- ary.			
1886 to 1890	139	201	69	98	45	*
1891 „ 1895	158	174	103	110	44	*
1896 „ 1900	170	131	91	179	62	84
1901 „ 1905	226	167	61	104	45	67
1906 „ 1910	251	154	48	90	35	87
1911 „ 1915	260	133	46	110	49	60
1916 „ 1920	310	150	62	59	50	178
1921 „ 1925	328	111	32	27	65	64
1926	79	26	3	4	8	4
1927	77	20	3	4	11	37
1928	76	20	6	3	13	12

* Reliable figures not available.

Infant Mortality, 1928.—Twenty deaths of infants below one year of age occurred, being 48.9 per thousand born, as compared with an infant mortality of 65 per thousand in England and Wales generally; the still births numbered 12. The average infant mortality in Tunbridge Wells during the previous ten years was 58.8 per thousand. It is noteworthy that amongst the 20 infants who died, only six were over three months of age, while seven were in their first week of life; this means that the majority of deaths were due to causes operating during the period of expectant motherhood.

In Table IV. is given in detail a list of the causes of infant deaths in 1928,

Table I.

Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1928.

(Provisional figures). The rates for England and Wales and for Tunbridge Wells have been calculated on a population estimated to the middle of 1928, but those for the towns have been calculated on populations estimated to the middle of 1927. The mortality rates refer to the whole population as regards England and Wales, but only to civilians as regards London and the groups of towns.

	RATE PER 1,000 TOTAL POPULATION.		ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.										RATE PER 1,000 BIRTHS.		PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS.			
	Live Births.	Still-Births.	All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping-cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Violence.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 Years).	Total Deaths under One Year.	Certified by Registered Medical Practitioners.	Inquest Cases.	Certified by Coroner after P. M.	No Inquest.	Uncertified Causes of Death.
England and Wales	16.7	0.70	11.7	0.01	0.00	0.11	0.01	0.07	0.06	0.19	0.53	7.0	65	90.9	6.7	1.4	1.0	
107 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	16.9	0.70	11.6	0.01	0.00	0.15	0.02	0.09	0.09	0.17	0.48	9.6	70	91.0	6.5	1.9	0.6	
156 Smaller Towns (1921 Adjusted Populations 20,000—50,000)	16.6	0.73	10.6	0.01	0.00	0.08	0.01	0.06	0.08	0.21	0.41	4.8	60	92.6	5.7	0.5	1.2	
London	15.9	0.53	11.6	0.01	0.00	0.30	0.02	0.09	0.09	0.13	0.55	10.2	67	88.7	7.6	3.7	0.0	
Tunbridge Wells	11.7	0.34	11.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.03	0.00	0.34	0.37	4.9	49	92.5	4.4	2.7	0.4	

Table II.—NOTIFIABLE DISEASES FOR YEAR 1928.

[illegible]

TABLE III.

Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1928.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.												Total Deaths whether of Residents or Non-Residents in Institutions in the District.	
	ALL AGES.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 3 years.	3 and under 4 years.	4 and under 5 years.	5 and under 10 years.	10 and under 15 years.	15 and under 20 years.	20 and under 35 years.	35 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.		65 years and upwards.
All Causes { Certified ... Uncertified ...	520 2	20 ...	6 ...	4 ...	... ...	... ...	6 ...	3 ...	4 ...	18 ...	22 ...	137 1	300 1	170 ...
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Small Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Whooping Cough	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza	12	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	1
Encephalitis lethargica	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Meningococcal meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	20	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	5	3	8	...	7
Other Tuberculous diseases	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	28
Cancer, malignant disease	76	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40	...
Rheumatic Fever	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Diabetes	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Cerebral hæmorrhage, etc.	52	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	36	...
Heart disease	105	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	13	76	...
Arterio-sclerosis	29	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27	24	...
Bronchitis	25	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	5	20	...
Pneumonia (all forms)	34	2	3	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	3	2	19	...
Other respiratory diseases	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	3	...
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	3	...
Cirrhosis of liver	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	...
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	10	13	...
Puerperal sepsis	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	9
Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Suicide	9	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Other deaths from violence	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	1	...
Other defined diseases	13	...	1	2	...	...	...	1	1	2	1	2	3	...
Causes ill defined or unknown	78	4	1	...	...	...	3	...	...	2	4	20	44	41
	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1

NETT BIRTHS IN THE YEAR:—		NETT DEATHS IN THE YEAR:—	
Legitimate ...	381	Certified ...	520
Illegitimate ...	28	Uncertified ...	2

TABLE IV.

INFANT MORTALITY.

1928. Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.			Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 1 Month	1-3 Months	3-6 Months	6-9 Months	9-12 Months	Total Deaths under 1 Year.
All causes	Certified ...	...	7	—	1	3	11	3	4	2	—	20
	Uncertified	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Small-pox ...			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Chicken-pox ...			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Measles ...			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Scarlet Fever ...			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Diphtheria and Croup ...			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Whooping-cough ...			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Diarrhoea ...			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Enteritis ...			—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	2
{ Tuberculous Meningitis			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Abdominal Tubercu-			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ losis ...			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Other Tuberculous			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Diseases ...			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Congenital Malforma-			2	—	—	1	3	—	1	—	—	4
{ tions ...			4	—	—	—	4	1	—	—	—	5
{ Premature Birth ...			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Atrophy, Debility and			—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1
{ Marasmus ...			1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
{ Atelectasis ...			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Injury at Birth ...			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Erysipelas ...			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Syphilis ...			—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
{ Rickets ...			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Meningitis (not Tuber-			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ culous) ...			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Convulsions ...			—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
{ Gastritis ...			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Laryngitis ...			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Bronchitis ...			—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
{ Pneumonia (all forms) ...			—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2
{ Suffocation (overlying)			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Other causes ...			—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	2

Poor Law Relief.—The approximate amount of Poor Law Relief in the Parish of Tunbridge Wells for the year ending 31st March, 1929, was £4,946 18s. 1d.

GRATUITOUS MEDICAL RELIEF.

The Tunbridge Wells General Hospital caters for the population of Tunbridge Wells and for a wide district around. Funds are being raised for transferring the Hospital from its cramped and noisy position to a fresh site on the Mount Ephraim ridge, where more airy and extensive premises can be built, subject to less disturbance from passing heavy traffic. The in-patients in 1928 numbered 1,423; theatre operations numbered 685, and operations performed in the out-patients' department under a general anæsthetic numbered 636, out-patients numbered 5,381, making 52,769 attendances. There is a large and well-equipped electrical department which offers radiant heat, radiant light, X-ray and radium treatment, also massage and electrical treatment. An orthopaedic centre allowing of remedial exercises treatment has been established, and children attending the Infant Welfare Centres and Elementary Schools in the Borough continued to take advantage of this form of treatment in 1928. Payment was made by the Corporation to the Hospital for such treatment subsequent to 1st April, 1928.

MASSAGE, ELECTRICAL, RADIANT HEAT, ULTRA VIOLET LIGHT, X-RAY AND RADIUM TREATMENTS.

					Patients.	Treatments.
Massage	...	...	...	...	541	9,381
Exercises	...	...	...	...	248	4,164
Electrical Treatments	...	...	...	...	313	5,251
					—	—
					1,102	18,796
					==	==

REMEDIAL EXERCISES.

35 Patients.

1,249 Treatments.

The Tunbridge Wells Eye and Ear Hospital deals with a greatly increased number of patients since the advent of an aural surgeon, in addition to an ophthalmic surgeon. The following Table speaks for itself in this respect :—

Year.	Out-Patients.	Attendances.	In-Patients.	Theatre Operations.
1921	2,339	5,115	303	284
1922	2,144	4,718	282	257
1923	2,105	4,736	289	265
1924	2,303	7,314	391	348
1925	2,615	8,917	478	476
1926	2,702	9,390	556	522
1927	2,675	9,927	713	666
1928	2,891	11,927	814	748

This Hospital will be amalgamated with the General Hospital when the hospital extension scheme is completed.

At the **Homoeopathic Hospital**, which has 22 beds, there were 218 in-patients in 1928, and 132 theatre operations were performed. Four thousand, four hundred and eighty-three attendances of out-patients were made and 31 minor operations were performed in the out-patients' department.

The Local Branch of the **Royal Surgical Aid Society** is performing an increasing amount of work annually ; for instance, in 1928, 613 appliances were supplied at a cost of £1,659 5s. 11d., being an increased expenditure of £145 over that incurred in 1927. I desire to make grateful acknowledgment to this Society for extending to me the privilege of sending school children whose parents are unable to afford glasses when ordered by the ophthalmic surgeon, to the optician, with the Society's letters, initialled by myself as School Medical Officer. Such letters are only given after due enquiry into the home circumstances and the optician does not accept letters for school children unless thus initialled.

The Provident Dispensary, 106, Upper Grosvenor Road. The number of members of this institution for the year 1928 was as follows :—Above the age of 14 years, 754 ; under the age of 14 years, 340 ; total, 1,094.

Tunbridge Wells Central Aid Society.—This Society performs much useful work of which the following gives some indication :—

The amount disbursed in pensions and special cases during 1928 was £682 12s. 7d., dealing with 126 cases, as compared with 69 cases assisted during 1927.

The Invalid Children's Aid Association.—This Association keeps in close touch with the School Medical and Child Welfare Services. It has rendered valuable service during the year. Twenty-one school children in need of treatment, were sent through its good offices to convalescent homes. Twelve children were given additional nourishment, and glasses were provided in three instances. The cost of the assistance given in these 36 cases was £76 14s. 10d.

The Tunbridge Wells District Nursing Association has a staff of six nurses, one of whom is resident in the outlying parish of Rusthall. A subsidy is paid by the Corporation for the services of this nurse in the capacity of midwife. In all, the nurses of the Association attended 99 maternity cases, and dealt with 558 other cases during the year. The total number of visits paid was 15,252, of which 13,198 were general, 1,706 maternity and 348 ante-natal. The Corporation also has an arrangement with the District Nursing Association whereby the services of a nurse may be obtained for visiting in the case of certain specified diseases, ophthalmia neonatorum, measles or whooping-cough with broncho-pneumonia, where, in the opinion of the Medical Officer of Health, the home conditions require such services. The nurse acts under the direction of the Medical Attendant, a fee being paid to the Association for her services.

Maternity Home, Upper Grosvenor Road. The work of this Home, which has now been open for four years, has so far increased that during the first three months of 1929, it has been necessary to refuse admission to 20 patients, owing to lack of accommodation. The Home has 10 beds :—4 in the large ward on the first floor, 2 in the ground floor front room, and 2 in the second floor front room, with, in addition, 2 beds in the waiting ward on the ground floor back room. One hundred and fifty-one confinements took place in the Home in the year ending 31st December, 1928. Ninety-four of the mothers were Tunbridge Wells residents, representing 23 per cent. of births for the year, the remainder came from surrounding districts. Under the agreement entered into between the Tunbridge Wells Corporation and the Committee of the Maternity Home, payment was made in 9 cases recommended by the Borough Medical Officer.

Co-ordination with the work of the Home is well maintained, as the Borough Medical Officer of Health serves on the Committee of Management, and also acts as Administrative Medical Officer for the Home.

Other Homes in Tunbridge Wells.—There is a branch of Dr. Barnardo's Home in Park Road, Hurstleigh Holiday Home in Bishops Down, and a Convalescent Home at Hawkenbury, in which a residential open-air school for L.C.C. children has been established.

These institutions deal almost entirely with children from London. There is also a small Rescue and Preventive Home in Upper Grosvenor Road.

There is also St. Christopher's Nursing College where children's nurses are trained and in which a number of children reside.

Tuberculosis Dispensary.—The Kent County Council has a branch Dispensary for tuberculous cases at 34, Calverley

Street. The attendances at this Dispensary during 1928 numbered 1,458, and were as follows :—

Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
Insured.		Uninsured.	
250	99	429	680

Tunbridge Wells and District Public Dental Service.—

This is an association of legally qualified dental practitioners. Persons who are unable to afford large fees are treated here for small sums. The number of new patients attending in 1928 was 240, and the total number of attendances, 3,150.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority or by the County Council :—

1.—Tuberculosis.—There is no hospital for the treatment of tuberculosis in the neighbourhood of Tunbridge Wells. The County Council makes arrangements for the treatment of suitable cases in hospitals situated in other parts of the county.

2.—Maternity.—The treatment of maternity cases is undertaken by arrangement with the Voluntary Home already mentioned, situated in Upper Grosvenor Road.

3.—Children.—No children's hospital is provided or subsidised by the Local Authority or by the County Council in Tunbridge Wells. Children are treated in the General Hospital, Eye and Ear Hospital, and Homœopathic Hospital. Fees are paid by the Local Authority to these hospitals in the case of operative treatment upon elementary school children for enlarged tonsils and adenoids.

4.—Fever.—The Borough has its own Fever Hospital which is situated on its southern boundary, 450 feet above sea level. The site is an excellent one, airy and open, with

a southern exposure and wide view over valleys and woodland. There is accommodation in the wards in use for 40 adult patients, allowing 2,000 cubic feet air space per bed. Sixty beds and cots are available for use in case of need, but the number of patients seldom exceeds 40.

In each of the four ward blocks a central heating stove and hot water circulation has been installed during the past three years. Geysers for water heating have thus been dispensed with—a change much appreciated by the staff and patients.

The Hospital has a large garden which supplies vegetables for most of the year for the patients and staff, also a fairly large amount of fruit in summer time, thus saving expense in catering.

5.—Smallpox.—A conjoint Smallpox Hospital is situated at Capel some four and a half miles from Tunbridge Wells. It has 20 beds and is under the administration of a Board representing Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge and Southborough Urban Districts and the Tonbridge Rural District. The situation of this Hospital is an excellent one for the purpose, being well away from human habitation in the midst of open and high lying country. A caretaker and his wife live in the house on the premises and are responsible for keeping the Hospital in good order and ready for use in case it should be required. Sentry stoves and hot water circulation have now been installed in both blocks, thus providing hot water for baths, etc., whenever required. Hot water formerly had to be taken by hand labour from the laundry copper to the ward, an unsuitable arrangement for a Smallpox Hospital as hot baths are of paramount importance in treating the disease.

One patient was admitted during the year, making a good recovery and leaving the institution after a stay of five weeks. A second-hand motor ambulance has recently been purchased

for conveying patients to the Hospital, thus doing away with the difficulty which would have arisen in endeavouring to fetch patients from the distant parts of the districts for which the Hospital caters.

No special institutional provision is made for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants or homeless children. The Infirmary of the Poor Law Union, situated at Pembury, deals with most of these cases.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(a) **For Infectious Cases.**—Two ambulances are kept on the Isolation Hospital premises, one somewhat heavy and out-of-date. Horses are hired as required to remove cases to the Hospital.

Since the close of 1928, a second-hand motor ambulance has been purchased for use in removing patients to the Borough Fever Hospital. This has now been used on several occasions, and the speeding up in the removal of patients is greatly appreciated by both staff and patients.

(b) **For Non-infectious and Accident Cases.**—The Borough Police Force has a motor ambulance which proves of great service for cases of this type. In addition, the St. John Ambulance Brigade has an ambulance which can be hired for removal of sick persons, etc.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.—There is a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre at 35, Calverley Street, provided by the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, consisting of a detached house with seven rooms. The main waiting room is large, consisting of two rooms made into one. There is a branch centre at Rusthall where meetings are held in the St. John Ambulance Brigade (Rusthall Section) Room.

Day Nurseries.—There are none in Tunbridge Wells.

School Clinics.—The School Clinic is at the Public Health Offices, Calverley Parade. The premises consist of four rooms provided by the Borough Education Committee.

Tuberculosis Dispensaries.—The Tuberculosis Dispensary is provided by the County Council and consists of a detached house at 34, Calverley Street, next door to the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre; its accommodation is similar to that of the Child Welfare Centre.

Treatment Centres for Venereal Diseases.—Venereal Diseases are treated at the General Hospital, Tunbridge Wells, there being one consultation day per week for men and one for women. The arrangements are under the control of the Kent County Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

A list of the staff of the Public Health Department is given at the beginning of this Report.

In addition to the regular members of the Public Health Department mentioned on the front page of the Report, Dr. C. Elliott, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., is appointed to take holiday duty during the Medical Officer's annual leave.

All four of the nursing staff act for one-fifth of their time as Health Visitors.

Miss M. Maclaren commenced duties on the nursing staff on 1st January, and Miss E. A. Meakins commenced duties on 1st May, replacing Miss Ponting and Miss Clark respectively. Miss E. Corderoy took up duty as Junior Clerk on 11th April, in place of H. W. Bellingham, resigned.

Contributions are made :—

(a) Under the Public Health Act towards the salaries

of the Medical Officer of Health and Senior Sanitary Inspector.

- (b) By Exchequer grants towards the salaries of the School Medical Officer, Ophthalmic Surgeon, Dental Surgeon, School Nurses, and Chief Clerk of the Health Offices, whose time is equally divided between health and school medical duties. There is also a contribution towards the part-time services of Dr. C. Elliott, who assists with school medical inspections up to the number of one thousand routine inspections annually.
- (c) By Exchequer grant towards the salaries of the Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare and of the Maternity and Child Welfare Nurses.
- (d) By Exchequer grant towards the fees of the Analyst under the Food and Drugs Act.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

(a) **General.**—The Tunbridge Wells District Nursing Association, which is affiliated to the Queen's Jubilee Nursing Association and supported by voluntary contributions, undertakes home nursing when required. A report of its work has already been given.

(b) **For Infectious Diseases.**—So far as the Borough Council is concerned, an arrangement is made whereby the services of a District Nurse can be obtained for attending in the homes of cases of ophthalmia neonatorum, measles, whooping-cough, etc., under the Maternity and Child Welfare Act, 1918. It is in the discretion of the Medical Officer of Health to call for these services as required; three calls were made during 1928.

(c) **Midwives.**—In May, 1928, one of the midwives belonging to the Tunbridge Wells District Nursing Association took up residence as a nurse-midwife in Rusthall, a subsidy

being paid by the Local Authority in order that this out-lying district might be supplied with a skilled midwife whose services would be more quickly available than in the past. The subsidy is payable for midwifery services only. The control of midwives in the Borough is vested in the Kent County Council; the Child Welfare work, Ante-Natal work and supervision of Nursing Homes are duties of the Borough Council.

The number of midwives practising in the Tunbridge Wells area during the year was seven.

BOROUGH BACTERIOLOGICAL LABORATORY, PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICE.

The number of specimens examined in the Borough Laboratory during 1928, viz. :—1,313, shews a considerable increase over the numbers examined during the past few years. The nature of the examinations is set out in the following table :—

Specimens examined for presence of Diphtheria

Bacillus	...	...	...	...	...	1,281
				Positive.	Negative.	
From Isolation Hospital						
cases	...	...	173	185		
From outside sources	...		83	840		
For Vincent's Spirillum	...		—	2		2
Hairs examined for presence						
of Ringworm		...	13	5		18
Other specimens examined	...					12
Total	...	...	...	...		1,313

In addition to the above, specimens were examined at the County Laboratory, Sessions House, Maidstone, as follows :—

	Positive.	Negative.
86 specimens for Tubercle Bacillus	16	83
35 Blood Examinations for Typhoid or Para-Typhoid ...	3	23
76 Swab Examinations for Diph- theria	16	47
4 Virulence tests for Diphtheria	2	5
	—	—
	37	158
	==	==

Chemical Work.—Chemical analyses of specimens of water, milk, and other forms of food, and drugs, are carried out by the Public Analyst, Mr. A. H. Mitchell Muter, of the South London Laboratories. The work done is reviewed under the Food and Drugs Acts.

LEGISLATION.

The Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act of 1890, to which Royal assent was given on 14th August, 1890, is in force. Parts 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 12 relate to Public Health, dealing with water supply, sanitary provision of buildings and streets, common lodging-houses, infectious diseases, slaughter-houses and public baths.

The Public Health Amendment Act, 1907.—Of this Act, which was declared to be in force within the Borough on 3rd April, 1911, the following sections have been adopted :—

Part	I.	Sections 1-14.
„	II.	„ 17, 21-24, 26-30, 32 and 33.
„	III.	„ 34-42, 45, 47-51.
„	IV.	„ 52-66, 68.
„	V.	„ 69-75.
„	VI.	„ 76, 77.
„	X.	„ 93 and 95.

By an Order of the Home Secretary, the following additional sections of the above Act were put into force in the Borough during the year 1928 :—

Part VII. Sections 80, 81, 83, 85 and 86.

„ VIII. „ 87-90.

„ IX. „ 91.

By reason of the operation of these sections, sections 122 and 291 of the Tunbridge Wells Improvement Act, 1890, are repealed.

The following parts of the **Public Health Act, 1925**, were adopted and put into force on 1st March, 1926 :—Parts II., III., IV. and V. (with the exception of sections 14, 20, 29, 34 and 35.

Fresh Bye-Laws relating to Slaughter-houses came into force in the Borough in March, 1925. Under these, use of the humane killer for slaughtering all animals is obligatory.

A Bye-Law relating to the Fouling of Footways by Dogs, which came into force for one year from 1st August, 1927, was made permanent as from 1st August, 1928.

In December, 1928, the Town Council passed a resolution deciding to prepare a Town Planning Scheme. The Minister for Health has since notified his approval of this resolution.

Water Supply.—The water supply of Tunbridge Wells is a soft water, drawn from springs issuing from the stratum known to geologists as the Tunbridge Wells Sandstone. The springs are situated in unfrequented woodland areas, in which inhabited buildings are few and distant ; the risk of pollution is well guarded against.

For roughly one-half of the year the supply of water from the springs meets the requirements of the Borough. During the remaining portion of the year, artesian borewells, seven in number, give an ample and pure supply of water to supplement the flow from the springs. The Artesian Wells are situated at Pembury, where there is a large reservoir, capable of holding 42,000,000 gallons. From this reservoir the water is pumped to a distributing reservoir at Blackhurst,

Pembury, over 500 feet above sea level. Thence it is distributed through the mains by force of gravity to the areas supplied. A certain amount of iron contained in solution in this deep well water is effectively removed by the use of Candy Oxidising Pressure Filters, six in number. The Artesian Wells are bored through the Wadhurst Clay and take their supply from the underlying Ashdown Sands ; the nearest point at which the Ashdown Sands reach the surface is some miles distant from the borewells. The water enters six open filter beds at Pembury, having an area of about one acre. An analysis, made by the Borough Analyst, reads as follows :—

Specimen from 15in. Main in Pembury Road.
Chemical Analysis.

<i>Determination.</i>				<i>Parts per 100,000.</i>
Free and Saline Ammonia	...	...	...	0.0010
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	0.0020
Oxygen absorbed	} in 15 minutes	...	...	0.0045
at 80° F.		} in 4 hours	...	0.0090
Nitric Nitrogen
Chlorine	...	...	...	2.4
Equivalent to Sodium Chloride				3.9
Total Solid Matter (Dried at 180° C.)				13.0
Temporary Hardness	...	...	...	4.25
Permanent Hardness	...	...	...	2.75
Appearance in two-foot tube			...	Colourless and Clear
Metals (Lead, Copper, Zinc, Iron)			...	Trace of Iron.

BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS.

Description of Sample.	No. of organisms per cubic centimetre capable of growing.		B. Coli Communis Presumptive Test		
	On standard Gelatin in 4 days at 22 C.	On standard Agar-Agar in 24 hours at 37 —38 C.	100 C.C.	10 C.C.	1 C.C.
From 15in. Main in Pembury Road ...	9	0	—	—	—

The results of both chemical and bacteriological analyses show the water to be remarkably pure and to be a drinking water of excellent quality. Until the dry season of 1921, the sources of water supply already mentioned fully sufficed to meet all needs, not only of the Borough, but of the neighbouring villages of Langton, Speldhurst, Stockland Green, and part of Pembury. Further consideration of the supplies after 1921 has resulted in the selection of a fresh site for boring an artesian well between Fordcombe and Penshurst, the layer to be tapped being the same as at Pembury, viz. :—the Ashdown Sands, but at a point about seven miles distant, on the opposite side of the boundary. The application made to the Ministry of Health for this purpose was sanctioned early in 1926, and the work is now well in hand. The water supply is a constant one and the number of dwelling-houses supplied is 8,675 in the Borough and 530 outside with a population of 42,000.

Rivers and Streams.—All the water courses in the Borough are small in volume, and periodical inspections have shown them to be in a satisfactory state.

Drainage and Sewerage.—The Borough sewage drains towards two sewage farms, one at the northern end and the other at the southern end of the town. The North Sewage Farm is 187 acres in extent, and the South Farm 197 acres. At the South Farm a portion of the sewage is treated by means of percolating bacteria beds. The effluents from both Sewage Farms are frequently analysed and give satisfactory results. Sewage from a portion of the town lying north of Mount Ephraim is dealt with by pumping across to join the sewage which proceeds to the South Farm.

Closet Accommodation.—There are no privies in the Borough. Six pail closets are in use in houses situated in the rural outskirts of the Borough. Seventy-four water

closets are connected to properly constructed cesspools, all the rest being connected to the public sewers.

Scavenging.—Refuse, both domestic and trade, is collected and removed in motor vehicles or covered carts once weekly. Trade refuse is collected daily from premises where this is necessary. Covered dustbins are very largely in use and where fixed brick receptacles are found to be defective, efforts, usually successful, are made to abolish them and substitute galvanised iron bins of which 605 were provided in 1927. Refuse is conveyed to tips situated near High Brooms Brickworks, and at Forest Road Brickworks. Modern motor dust collectors are being substituted for the antiquated covered carts, which have been in use and which have never proved satisfactory from a sanitary point of view.

Disposal of Refuse.—There has been a marked improvement in the condition of the two refuse dumps since the visit of the Ministry of Health's representative in November, 1926. The method adopted at the City of Bradford was studied on the spot by the Corporation's Superintendent of Refuse Disposal, who has since proceeded to carry it out in the best manner in which local conditions here would allow. The layers of refuse are deeper than those recommended in the Bradford Report, but apart from this the method is closely adhered to, with the result that no nuisance now arises at either dump.

Schools.—All schools in the area are supplied with town water, and—with the exception of Rusthall Boys' School, which drains to a cesspool in private grounds—are connected to the public sewers.

There was no closure of schools or classes on account of infectious disease in 1928.

Sanitary Inspection of Area.—During 1928, I inspected various trade premises in the Borough and took the oppor-

tunity of investigating the alterations required on some premises to comply with the conditions of the most recent regulations.

Attached is the Report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector, Mr. H. T. Taylor, from which it will be seen that 501 dwelling houses were inspected for housing defects. Four hundred and forty-seven of these were found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. In addition 250 houses were inspected in connection with ashpit accommodation, all of which were found to be without proper ashpit accommodation.

Mr. Taylor's Report also shews that much time and care were devoted to meat inspection by the sanitary staff.

*To the Medical Officer of Health,
Borough of Royal Tunbridge Wells.*

I beg to submit this Report on the work of the Sanitary Department during the year 1928.

The following table gives a general statement as to the number of inspections made and other work done during the year :—

Houses inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	501
Houses inspected <i>re</i> dustbins (excluding above)	...	...	...	...	...	...	250
Complaints investigated	...	...	...	...	...	...	198
Complaints referred to other departments	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Houses inspected for Sanitary Certificates	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Amount received for inspections for Sanitary Certificates	£12 18s. 11d.						
Visits to Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	590
„ „ Other food premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	238
„ „ Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	87
„ „ Kitchens	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
„ „ Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	104
„ „ Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	81
„ „ Ice Cream premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
„ „ Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	52
„ „ Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	146
„ „ Workplaces	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
„ „ Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
„ „ Stables	...	...	...	...	...	...	52
„ „ respecting keeping of animals	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
„ „ „ rats	...	...	...	...	...	...	74
„ „ „ applications for Council Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	52
Interviews respecting property	...	...	...	...	...	...	215

Secondary visits to houses under notice	...	...	...	...	3,576
Visits respecting infectious cases	...	...	...	...	57
Rooms disinfected	...	...	...	...	53
Loads of bedding removed	...	.....	...	...	6
Other visits	...	...	...	...	250
Occasions on which Chemical test was applied to drains	...	...	...	...	286
" " Smoke	..	..	..	...	66
" " Water	..	..	..	...	79
Informal notices served	312,	respecting	598	houses	
Formal	"	"	39,	"	37
Defects remedied	...	...	...	...	3,320
Carcases examined (home killed)	...	...	...	...	3,242
Food condemned and destroyed	—11 tons 11 cwts. 2 qrs. 16 lbs.				
Samples of Food and Drugs examined by Public Analyst	...	...	...	...	131
" " Milk examined at Office	...	...	...	...	20

Inspection of Houses.

Under the Housing Act, 1925, it is the duty of every Local Authority to cause an inspection of their district to be made from time to time, to ascertain whether any houses are unfit for human habitation. In view of this, systematic and detailed inspections of some of the worst of the property was again carried out during the year. The number of houses inspected and recorded under this Act was 287, and in the case of each of these houses, full particulars are recorded on a card to provide a permanent record. In addition to these houses, 214 other houses were inspected for various reasons, such as complaints, infectious cases, alterations to sanitary arrangements etc. Two hundred and fifty houses were also visited at the request of the Borough Surveyor, with a view to improved ashpit accommodation being provided, so that no less than 750 houses were visited during the year. Defects numbering 3,320 were remedied and this entailed the service of 312 informal and 39 formal notices, the majority of which had been complied with at the end of the year.

The following table gives a classification of the defects remedied :—

Houses re-drained	...	...	...	...	15
Houses at which drains were repaired	...	...	...	...	50
Sewage purification plants installed	...	...	...	...	2
Intercepting traps fixed	...	...	...	...	2
Inspection chambers constructed	...	...	...	...	25
Inspection chambers repaired	...	...	...	...	17
New vent pipes fixed to drains	...	...	...	...	10

Soil and vent pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	...	17
New soil pipes provided	...	...	...	...	...	12
New glazed gullies fixed	...	...	...	...	...	55
Defective bell traps removed	...	...	...	...	...	5
Obstructions removed from drains	...	...	...	...	...	21
New W.C.'s constructed	...	...	...	...	...	10
Defective W.C. pans and traps removed	...	...	...	...	...	43
Old pan and container closets removed	...	...	...	...	...	2
W.C.'s provided with water supply	...	...	...	...	...	8
Flushing cisterns repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	43
Rain-water pipes disconnected from drains	...	...	...	...	...	13
Rain-water pipes and gutters repaired	...	...	...	...	...	124
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	159
Paving to yards repaired	...	...	...	...	...	171
Galvanized dust-bins provided	...	...	...	...	...	303
Ashpits discontinued	...	...	...	...	...	45
Accumulations of rubbish removed	...	...	...	...	...	14
Nuisances from animals abated	...	...	...	...	...	11
New sinks provided	...	...	...	...	...	37
Sink wastes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	73
Rooms stripped and distempered or re-papered	...	...	...	...	...	394
Ceilings cleansed and distempered	...	...	...	...	...	120
Rooms and bedding cleansed (tenant)	...	...	...	...	...	11
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	...	8
Rooms ventilated	...	...	...	...	...	60
Wall repaired (internally)	...	...	...	...	...	108
Wall repaired (externally)	...	...	...	...	...	63
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	230
Space under ground floors ventilated	...	...	...	...	...	62
Windows repaired	...	...	...	...	...	100
New sash cords fixed	...	...	...	...	...	204
Dampness remedied	...	...	...	...	...	37
Coppers repaired	...	...	...	...	...	77
Chimneys repaired	...	...	...	...	...	40
Stoves repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	79
Food cupboards provided	...	...	...	...	...	5
Slaughter houses cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	5
Cowsheds limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	6
Cowsheds re-constructed	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dairies limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	14
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	509

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1928.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b) )	...	...	...	...	...	94
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :—						
(1) By the Local Authority	...					34
(2) By other bodies or persons	...					9

I.—UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.

Inspection.

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	501
(In addition 250 houses were inspected in connection with ashpit accommodation.)			

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	287
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	3
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	447
(In addition 250 houses were found to be without proper ashpit accommodation.)	

II.—Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ...	350
---	-----

III.—Action under Statutory Powers.

A. *Proceedings under section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	9
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) by owners	5
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	Nil

B. *Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	30
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) by owners	20
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil

C. *Proceedings under sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.*

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	3
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil

On representation being made in respect of the three houses considered to be unfit for human habitation, the owner was asked to attend before the Health Committee to show cause why Closing Orders should not be made. He did not avail himself of the opportunity, but, acting on the advice of his solicitor and architect, undertook to close the property. At the end of the year, one house was closed and the tenants of the other two were under notice to quit.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

In addition to the inspection of houses, 211 visits were paid to factories, workshops and workplaces, which, on the whole, were found to be kept in a satisfactory manner. Bakehouses also have to be inspected under the Factory and Workshops Act, and I regret to state that the condition in which several of these were kept, left much to be desired, and it was necessary to call for the cleansing of floors which is a duty that should be done as a matter of course.

The following matters received attention :—

					Found.	Remedied.
Want of Cleanliness	...	...	...	...	5	3
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	—	—
Other nuisances	...	...	...	...	6	4
Sanitary accommodation	insufficient			...	—	—
„	„	unsuitable		...	13	10
„	„	not separate		...	—	—
Breach of bakehouses	requirements			...	16	12
					—	—
					40	29
					==	==

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

Frequent visits were paid to premises where milk was produced or distributed, the total number of visits being 189. It is gratifying to be able to report that the conducting of milk businesses showed a distinct improvement, the majority of the vendors realising that cleanliness is not only a necessity but is a distinct asset to them. The cowsheds also showed a further improvement and in one case, a shed was re-constructed and enlarged, and provided with up-to-date fittings. From being one of the worst, it is now the best. One local cow-keeper entered the Kent County Clean Milk competition, and secured a high award in his class, being beaten only by three gentlemen farmers producing graded milk.

Proceedings were taken against one milk vendor for carrying on the trade of a dairyman without being registered. In view of the fact that previous cases had been taken in the nature of a warning, a fine of £5 was imposed.

FOOD SUPPLIES.

As much time as possible was devoted to the inspection of food-preparing places, particularly to Slaughter-houses during times of killing. The number of Slaughter-house premises remains the same as in the previous year, viz. : five, four being registered and one licenced. At the commencement of the year, a Slaughter-house just outside the Borough boundary was visited, but owing to the premises changing hands and the amount of killing increasing, the supervision was found to entail too much time and therefore reverted to the Rural District Council.

Three hundred and seven notices of intention to slaughter were received, these being in addition to the standing notices as to slaughtering on appointed days.

Five hundred and ninety visits were paid to Slaughter-houses, chiefly at times of slaughter, and 238 visits to other food premises, not including Bakehouses, Milkshops, etc.

Food weighing 11 tons 11 cwts. 2 qrs. 16 lbs. was condemned and destroyed, as being unfit for human food, this comprising :—

Beef (home killed)	...	...	1,052 lbs of which 1,052 lbs. was tuber-		
				cular.	
Beef offals (home killed)	...	990	„	816	„
Mutton	...	73	„		„
Pork (home killed)	...	795	„	672	„
Pigs heads (home killed)	...	266	„	266	„
Beasts livers (home killed)	...	792	„		
Sheep's livers (home killed)	...	332	„		
Other offals	...	224	„	129	„
Imported Beef	...	1,489	„		
„ offals	...	220	„		
Fish	...	42	„		
Bacon	...	46	„		
Tins and glass containers of food		235	„		
Tomatoes	...	12	„		
Potatoes	...	19,376	„		
Total	...	25,944	„	(11 tons 11 cwts. 2 qrs. 16 lbs.)	
Imported eggs—345 ; Ducks—33 ; Hens—8 ; Chicken—29 ; Rabbits—3 ; Melons—24 ; Oranges—250.					

The major part of the home-killed meat and offals condemned was detected during the times of inspection of the Slaughter-houses. As much meat as possible is inspected at the time of slaughter, but it is impossible for the whole of it to be seen. Again, much of the meat sold in the Borough is from animals slaughtered outside the district, and the only way to obtain proper supervision is by the provision of a Public Abattoir, through which all carcasses should pass.

No legal proceedings were necessary during the year.

Two magistrates' orders were obtained in respect of three rabbits.

FOOD AND DRUGS.

The work under the Food and Drugs and kindred Acts entailed a considerable amount of the time, and the work was increased during the year as the Public Health (Preservatives in Food) Regulations came fully into operation during the year.

Under these regulations it is now an offence to use any but a prescribed preservative in a limited number of foods and the use of such an article in cream is now prohibited.

All the samples of food submitted for analysis were examined for the presence of preservatives and in one instance, a sample of sausages was found to contain a prohibited preservative. Proceedings were taken in the nature of a warning, and the case was dismissed on payment of costs.

The number of cases of milk below the legal standard was again so high as to call for comment on the part of the Public Analyst. In three cases, farmers admitted adding water to the milk, and in two other cases, a farmer pleaded guilty but said he could not account for the two samples of milk containing 26 and 16 per cent. respectively of extraneous water. It is

to be hoped that the fine of £20 plus costs which was inflicted in this case, will have a salutary effect on milk producers generally.

The use of the “ Gerber ” test at the office was instrumental in aiding me to detect samples of milk not up to the prescribed standard.

The following table gives particulars as to the samples submitted for analysis :—

Nature of Article.	Examined.		Adulterated.		Remarks.
	Formal.	Informal	Formal.	Informal	
New Milk ...	65	11	18	18	<p>No. 12 contained 8% extraneous water. Samples Nos. 15, 16 and 19 taken in course of delivery.</p> <p>15 " 15½% " " } Proceedings taken. 16 " 16% " " } Fined £5 5s. and £1 16s. cost.</p> <p>17 Three per cent. deficient in milk fat. Caution given. 19 contained 15% extraneous water. Proceedings taken & fined £5 5s. and 13s. costs.</p> <p>20 contained 1½% extraneous water. 21 " 1½% " " } From same source as Nos. 15 & 16. These samples were taken into consideration when other cases were heard. Samples Nos. 25 & 26 were subsequently taken in course of delivery.</p> <p>22 " 4% " " } Proceedings taken and cases 23 " 7½% " " } dismissed on payment of costs 25 21% deficient in milk fat } —Cautioned. 26 21% " " } 67 6% " " } 69 contained 4% extraneous water. Proceedings taken. fined £2 and 13s. costs.</p> <p>73 contained 5½% extraneous water } Samples Nos. 74, 75, 76, 77 taken in course of delivery. Proceedings taken. 74 " 26% " " } Fined £10 in each 75 " 16% " " } case and costs. 76 " 2% " " } amounting to £4 14s. (£24 14s.). 77 2% deficient in milk fat } Cautioned.</p>
Carried forward	65	11	18	18	

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS, 1928—continued.

Nature of Article.	Examined.		Adulterated.		Remarks.
	Formal.	Informal. Total.	Formal.	Informal. Total.	
Brgt. forward	65	11	18	18	No. 120 contained 2% extraneous water. Cautioned.
Separated Milk	2	—	1	1	
Cream	—	5	—	—	
Butter	—	12	—	—	
Cheese	—	5	—	—	
Margarine	—	2	—	—	Sample No. 52 (informal) contained Boric acid. Samples 85 & 95 subsequently obtained.
Sausages	4	10	1	4	
		76		5	
		2			" 84 " " Sulphur dioxide. Formal sample No. 94 taken and found to be genuine.
		5			
		12			" 85 " " Boric acid. Formal sample No. 95 taken and found to be genuine.
		5			
		2			" 95 (formal) " Boric acid. Proceedings taken. Case dismissed on payment of costs, 19s.
		10			
		14			" 107 (informal) " Sulphur dioxide. Formal sample No. 119 taken when notice was exhibited
Lard	—	2	—	—	
Coffee	—	4	—	—	
Pepper	—	2	—	—	
Mincemeat	—	1	—	—	
Ammoniated Tinc. of Quinine	—	2	—	—	
Camphorated Oil	—	2	—	—	
Eucalyptus Oil	—	2	—	—	
	71	60	20	4	
		131		24	

RATS DESTRUCTION.

During the year systematic steps were taken to reduce the number of rats in the Borough. The sewers were periodically baited with poisonous biscuits and from the number of the baits eaten I am convinced that the number of rats was considerably reduced. The gassing machine was also used effectively at the refuse dumps, and allotments and on the Common. Advice to householders was given on numerous occasions and the service of the officially recognised rat-catcher was made use of.

HARRY T. TAYLOR,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

A summary follows of the notifiable infectious diseases which occurred during each month of the year 1928. One hundred and five cases were notified during the year, as compared with 152 in 1927.

Notifications of pneumonia decreased from 64 to 46, and diphtheria increased from 42 to 45. Scarlet fever notifications increased from 21 to 80.

Seasonal Incidence of Acute Infectious Diseases, 1928.

Month.	Scarlet Fever.	Diph- theria.	Enteric Fever Group.	Erysip- elas.	Ophthal- mia Neona- torum.	Cerebro Spinal Fever.	Pneu- monia.	Acute Polio- myelitis.	Puer- peral Fever and Pyrexia
January ...	3	8	—	1	1	1	6	—	1
February ...	6	9	—	1	—	—	4	—	1
March ...	5	3	—	1	—	—	5	—	2
April ...	2	5	—	3	1	—	4	—	1
May ...	2	2	1	3	—	—	1	—	—
June ...	6	1	—	1	—	—	3	—	—
July ...	5	4	—	2	—	—	1	—	—
August ...	2	7	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
September ...	9	—	—	3	—	—	2	—	—
October ...	19	2	2	1	1	—	5	1	1
November ...	12	—	—	1	—	1	8	—	—
December ...	9	4	—	1	—	—	7	—	—
Total ...	80	45	3	19	3	2	46	1	6

Diphtheria.—The attack rate per thousand population was 1.3. Glancing at the Table appended it is noticed that in the years 1896 to 1900, Diphtheria was prevalent in the Borough ; again in the years 1911 to 1915, it was prevalent, though not on so extensive a scale. Arguing from these figures the disease should again be rife in the period 1926 to 1930.

No rise occurred in 1926 ; in 1927 the number of cases rose from 15 to 42, in 1928 from 42 to 45. No death occurred in 1928.

The Corporation provides anti-toxin, free of charge, for use by medical practitioners practising in the town. This anti-toxin can be obtained at the Public Health Offices at any hour. Specimens taken from suspicious cases are examined at the Public Health Offices and speedy reports of the examinations are given. Carriers, if found, are treated until the germ of Diphtheria has either disappeared or lost its poisonous properties. Forty-four of the 45 patients were treated in the Isolation Hospital.

**Comparison of the Fatality, Incidence, and Mortality of Diphtheria
in Different Years.**

Year.	Estimated Population.	No. of Cases.	Deaths Registered	Fatality per cent.	Attack- Rate per 1,000 Population	Death- Rate per 1,000 Population	Rainfall in inches.
1890	28,148	22	7	31.8	0.71	0.18	—
1891	27,984	17	5	29.4	0.57	0.14	—
1892	28,345	27	8	29.6	0.85	0.17	—
1893	28,705	42	10	23.8	1.40	0.31	26.05
1894	29,065	41	6	14.6	1.37	0.17	36.58
1895	29,535	44	8	18.2	1.49	0.27	26.69
1896	29,895	68	15	22.1	2.24	0.46	30.07
1897	30,255	118	11	9.3	3.86	0.33	27.65
1898	30,615	278	31	11.2	9.07	1.01	23.39
1899	30,975	120	7	5.8	3.87	0.23	28.10
1900	31,335	82	3	3.6	2.61	0.10	31.28
1901	33,443	31	1	3.2	0.92	0.03	24.84
1902	33,773	23	2	8.7	0.68	0.06	25.19
1903	34,073	10	1	10.0	0.26	0.00	42.41
1904	34,373	12	1	8.3	0.34	0.03	29.32
1905	34,673	17	0	0.0	0.49	0.00	27.05
1906	34,973	10	0	0.0	0.28	0.00	32.74
1907	35,273	27	6	22.2	0.76	0.17	28.55
1908	35,573	29	2	6.9	0.81	0.06	29.53
1909	35,873	11	3	27.3	0.31	0.08	35.14
1910	36,173	15	1	6.6	0.41	0.03	35.14
1911	35,778	69	8	11.6	1.92	0.22	35.19
* 1912	36,038	91	10	11.0	2.52	0.28	38.18
1913	36,298	129	4	3.1	3.5	0.11	—
1914	36,460	154	1	0.6	4.2	0.02	30.91
1915	33,430	83	5	6.0	2.5	0.15	35.15
1916	32,316	53	7	13.2	1.6	0.22	35.69
1917	30,751	40	1	2.5	1.3	0.03	31.38
1918	32,297	23	1	4.3	0.8	0.03	28.95
1919	34,423	57	4	7.0	1.6	0.20	29.24
1920	35,795	64	3	4.7	1.8	0.08	25.13
1921	34,270	32	1	3.1	0.9	0.03	16.45
1922	34,360	26	0	0.0	0.8	0.00	30.82
1923	34,370	11	1	9.0	0.3	0.03	32.25
1924	34,330	11	1	9.0	0.3	0.03	36.42
1925	34,080	14	1	7.1	0.4	0.03	32.81
1926	34,430	15	1	6.6	0.4	0.03	29.78
1927	33,870	42	1	2.4	1.2	0.03	40.06
1928	34,820	45	0	0.0	1.3	0.00	33.88

* Since 1912, mild cases diagnosed by bacteriological examination are included; prior to that year they were unrecognised as cases of diphtheria. The attack-rate per 1,000 population, before 1912, was calculated without the aid of this method of detecting the presence of diphtheria.

Scarlet Fever.—The type of this disease was mild and the cases numbered 80 as compared with 21 in 1927. The difficulty of diagnosing mild cases of this disease is well known. The average number of cases in the previous five years was

66 per annum. Sixty-eight of the 80 cases were treated in the Isolation Hospital.

Forty of these cases occurred during the months of October and November, a small outbreak in Rusthall having originated under circumstances which pointed to an undetected case having started the infection.

Enteric Fever.—Three cases of Typhoid or Para-Typhoid Fever were notified in 1928.

Encephalitis Lethargica.—No cases were notified.

Acute Poliomyelitis.—One notification was received in 1928 the patient being sent into the General Hospital from an outlying district.

Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia.—Six notifications were received in 1928, two deaths occurring; one of these, upon investigation, proved to have been due to an attack of infective sore throat, resulting in blood poisoning two or three months after childbirth; the case was not one of puerperal fever. The other was a case of puerperal fever, with pelvic abscess.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—Five cases of ophthalmia neonatorum occurred, all of them making complete recovery.

Non-Notifiable Acute Infectious Diseases.—Knowledge of these is chiefly obtained through schools in the first instance, and visiting at homes where school cases are notified enables the Health Visitors to discover the cases amongst younger children.

Whooping-cough and chicken-pox were rather prevalent, the former in the spring months, the latter at the close of the year.

Influenza.—Thirty-seven deaths were ascribed to influenza as compared with four in 1926.

Epidemic Diarrhoea and Enteritis.—Epidemic Diarrhoea was not prevalent; two deaths of infants were registered as being due to diarrhoea and enteritis.

Tuberculosis.—Under **The Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1924**, it is required that a register be kept of all tuberculous persons in the area, and that it be brought up to date each quarter when a statement of the number on the register is forwarded to the Health Authority of the Administrative County. The number of persons whose names were on the register at the close of the year 1927 was 118 Pulmonary and 58 Non-Pulmonary, and the number at the close of the year 1928, 111 Pulmonary and 50 Non-Pulmonary. The fresh cases and mortality during the year are set out in the accompanying Table.

TUBERCULOSIS.
New Cases and Mortality during 1928.

Age-Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	1	—	2	1	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
15	—	2	1	1	—	1	1	—
20	2	—	1	1	—	1	—	—
25	5	5	1	1	3	1	1	—
35	2	2	—	1	1	2	—	—
45	3	2	—	—	3	3	—	1
55	1	1	—	—	—	2	—	1
65 & upwards	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
Totals ...	15	12	7	6	9	11	3	3

It has not been necessary to take any action under the “Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925,” and no action was taken under Section 62 of the “Public Health Act, 1925.”

The death rate for the present year, 0.75, is slightly less

than the average death rate for the previous five years. Undoubtedly this rate should decrease, and conditions which will favour its decrease are (1) Better housing accommodation with free access of light and air and with free use of the means of ventilation ; (2) better economic conditions with more regular employment and less under-nourishment prevailing ; (3) the spread of information upon the health-giving properties of sunlight and air and general teaching of personal hygiene ; (4) greater care on the part of the public to ensure a clean, healthy food supply for themselves.

Deaths from Tuberculosis During the Last 38 Years.

Year.	Estimated Population.	Phthisis.	Phthisis. Death-rate	Other Forms of Tuberculosis.	Totals.	Tuberculosis Death-rate	Average Tuberculosis Death-rates
1890	28,148	37	1.32	12	49	1.38	1.77
1891	27,984	40	1.43	17	57	2.03	
1892	28,345	30	1.06	18	48	1.69	
1893	28,705	31	1.08	22	53	1.84	
1894	29,065	39	1.34	16	55	1.89	
1895	29,535	34	1.15	30	64	2.16	1.60
1896	29,895	25	0.83	21	46	1.54	
1897	30,255	25	0.82	11	36	1.19	
1898	30,615	21	0.68	20	41	1.35	
1899	30,975	40	1.29	15	55	1.77	
1900	31,335	20	0.63	24	44	0.85	1.24
1901	33,443	35	1.04	15	50	1.49	
1902	33,773	29	0.89	17	46	1.36	
1903	34,073	32	0.93	10	42	1.23	
1904	34,373	36	1.04	8	44	1.28	
1905	34,673	35	1.01	11	46	1.32	1.18
1906	34,973	28	0.80	8	36	1.03	
1907	35,273	35	0.99	8	43	1.22	
1908	35,573	20	0.56	14	34	0.93	
1909	35,873	43	1.19	7	50	1.39	
1910	36,173	28	0.77	11	39	1.08	1.00
1911	35,778	21	0.58	6	27	0.75	
1912	36,038	24	0.66	7	31	0.86	
1913	36,298	32	0.88	14	46	1.26	
1914	36,460	27	0.74	11	38	1.04	
1915	33,430	29	0.87	8	37	1.11	1.23
1916	32,316	28	0.87	12	40	1.24	
1917	30,751	30	0.97	13	43	1.40	
1918	32,297	36	1.11	17	53	1.64	
1919	34,423	29	0.87	10	39	1.16	
1920	35,795	21	0.59	12	33	0.92	0.84
1921	34,270	25	0.73	7	32	0.93	
1922	34,360	21	0.61	11	32	0.93	
1923	34,370	30	0.88	4	34	0.99	
1924	34,330	19	0.55	6	25	0.73	
1925	34,080	17	0.50	4	21	0.62	0.84
1926	34,430	26	0.76	3	29	0.84	
1927	33,870	20	0.59	3	23	0.68	
1928	34,820	20	0.57	6	26	0.75	

Tuberculosis and Venereal Diseases Schemes.—Arrangements for *treating* tuberculous persons and those suffering from venereal diseases are in the hands of the County Council which has arranged times for consultations at the Tuberculosis Dispensary, and at the General Hospital respectively.

Disinfection and Disinfestation.—A valuable addition to the Borough's health equipment has been made in the year 1928, in the shape of a Public Cleansing Station. This is situated in the Corporation Yard buildings behind the Technical Institute and consists of two rooms, one equipped with a bath, boiler and coke stove, while in the other is a steam sack disinfector in which clothing is sterilized by steam whilst a disinfectant bath is being taken. There is in the same room, a disinfecting chamber in which larger articles, such as mattresses, can be disinfected by the use of formalin or other gas. Disinfection and disinfestation of premises, clothing and bedding is carried out partly by members of the sanitary staff and largely by the caretaker of the Health Offices, who has undertaken an increasing proportion of disinfecting duties, discharging these very efficiently. There is also a small disinfector at the Sanatorium used in connection with fever cases. Bedding is disinfected after enteric fever cases and, on request, after certain cases of cancer.

Washing and boiling of bed linen and personal wear, thorough airing and scrubbing of rooms which have been occupied by infected persons are advised.

Small-pox and Chicken-pox are the only diseases readily carried in the clothing: the chief method of spread of infectious diseases is by direct contact with the human carrier, and disinfection of rooms and clothing occupies a less prominent position than it once did. Attention to building up the patient's health, and to abolishing unhealthy conditions of the throat, nose or ears, avoidance of crowding and close

atmosphere, do more to diminish the spread of infection than does the fumigation of rooms.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Council has made the following arrangements for administering the provisions of the Maternity and Child Welfare Acts in the Borough :—

It has purchased and maintains a Centre at 35, Calverley Street. Leases the St. John Ambulance Brigade Room at Rusthall as a subsidiary Centre on Wednesdays. An additional room has been taken as a waiting room at this latter Centre because the number of attendances has increased since the new houses have been built at Rusthall. The staff employed is as follows :—Miss Rice Oxley devotes four-fifths of her time to Child Welfare duties, Miss Donaldson two-fifths and Miss Maclaren two-fifths. Many voluntary helpers assist on consultation days at the Centres ; in Rusthall, these voluntary helpers are members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade ; at the main Centre, there are members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade and others.

Dr. Margaret Emslie attends once a month at Calverley Street for ante-natal consultations. Dr. Cecil Horder is employed to see any orthopaedic cases referred to him from the Centre and arrangements have been made with the General Hospital whereby treatment is obtained for such cases under his direction, and payment is made to the Hospital for such treatment. Mr. Fox, School Dental Surgeon, sees children under school age and expectant mothers at the School Clinic once a month, these being referred to him by myself, as I act as Medical Officer to the Centres on the two chief consultation days, viz. :—Thursday at Calverley Street, and Wednesday at Rusthall, or by Dr. Emslie from the ante-natal clinic meetings.

The attendance figures at the Centres during 1928 are as follows :—

	Rusthall.	Tunbridge Wells.
Infants under 1 year ...	363	1,479
Children 1 to 5 years ...	670	1,337
Expectant Mothers ...	23	49
Mothers ...	806	2,393
Dr. Emslie's Clinics ...	—	81

Total consultations with Medical Officer, 1,440 (excluding all ante-natal and orthopaedic consultations).

In the autumn a competitive examination on mothercraft was held, the subjects for competition being sewing of baby garments, cutting down clothing to fit small children, the making of toys, and a series of questions on mothercraft. A considerable number of fathers enter for the toy-making competition, producing some excellent work.

At the prize-giving ceremony, which took place in the Town Hall under the Chairmanship of His Worship the Mayor, the prizes were distributed by Mrs. Hempson, wife of Councillor W. E. Hempson, Chairman of the Health Committee.

The visits paid by the nursing staff during the year were as follows :—

First visit to infants ...	398
Subsequent visits to infants ...	2,156
Visits to children 1 to 5 years ...	4,658
Visits to expectant mothers ...	295
Visits where infants have died ...	21
Visits—found no one at home ...	321

A Sub-Committee of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee met each Monday morning at the Public Health Office in order to deal with applications for assistance

under the Milk (Mothers and Children) Orders. Orders for 5,024 pints of fresh milk were granted. There were also issued free of cost :—149 lbs. dried milk, 73 lbs. cod liver oil and malt, one tin of Ovaltine, 64 pots of Virol, 20 pots Vitmar and small quantities of some other foods or drugs. The Medical Officer also issued 58 certificates for milk to be supplied through the Guardians.

BOROUGH OF ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE :

Mr. Councillor BERWICK (Chairman).

M. Alderman SILCOCK.	Mr. Councillor STRANGE.
Mr. Alderman WESLEY SMITH.	The Rev. Canon A. W. OLIVER,
Mr. Alderman WILLMOT.	M.A.
Councillor Miss BAKER.	The Rev. T. G. GILLING-LAX,
Mr. Councillor BOOTES.	M.A.
Mr. Councillor BURSLEM.	Miss HAZLEWOOD.
Mr. Councillor HARGREAVES.	Miss MAUD ROBERTS.
Mr. Councillor OATEN.	Mr. J. A. PUNTON SMITH, M.B.E.
Councillor Miss POWER.	Mr. C. A. PRESTON, M.A.
Mr. Councillor SAUNDERS.	Mr. C. H. STRANGE.

STAFF OF THE SCHOOL MEDICAL DEPARTMENT :

Clerk (*part time*) :

F. HICKS.

Junior Clerk (*part time*) :

Miss C. CORDEROY.

School Nurses :

Miss E. A. MEAKINS.
(*four-fifths time*).

Miss J. DONALDSON.
(*two-fifths time*).

Miss M. MACLAREN.
(*two-fifths time*).

School Dental Surgeon :

T. F. FOX, L.D.S., R.C.S., ENG.

Orthopaedic Surgeon :

CECIL A. HORDER, M.A., M.B., CH.B., F.R.C.S.

Aural Surgeon :

J. WALKER WOOD, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P.

Ophthalmic Surgeon :

D. DAVIES, M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Assistant to School Medical Officer (*part time*):

C. ELLIOTT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

School Medical Officer :

F. C. LINTON, M.A., M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Report to the Education Committee

BY

F. C. LINTON, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

School Medical Officer.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Report upon the work of the School Medical Department during the year 1928: it is the fifteenth report since I commenced duty as your School Medical Officer.

On December 31st, 1928, there were within the area of the Borough no provided schools and 18 non-provided schools, including 22 departments, with recognised accommodation for 4,219 children. The average attendance during the year was 2,956.

The Open-Air School seemed destined to be commenced in the autumn of 1928. A site was selected, inspected and approved by the representative of the Board of Education, but at the last moment was discarded, and search was made for a fresh site with more advantages. The delay is naturally disappointing to many persons, particularly the donors of £1,000 towards the cost of building and equipping the school. Every effort is being made to make this delay as brief as possible: its justification lies in building and equipping, on a fresh site, a school worthy of the Borough.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F. C. LINTON.

1. STAFF.

On the first page of this Report are set out the names of the Staff in which the following changes took place during the year :—

Miss M. Maclaren commenced duty on 1st January, 1928, in place of Miss A. I. Ponting, who had resigned in June, 1927. Miss E. A. Meakins was appointed on 4th May, 1928, as School Nurse and Health Visitor in place of Miss Clark who, owing to ill-health, had resigned her appointment after seven years of valuable service.

Dr. Cecil A. Horder was appointed as from 1st April, 1928, to direct the orthopaedic treatment of school children referred to him by the staff of the School Medical Department, This was a fresh appointment.

Dr. C. Elliott continues to assist in the work of school medical inspection as before, inspecting not more than one thousand children per annum.

The Dental, Aural and Ophthalmic Surgeons continue, as in the previous year, and Miss Donaldson, Health Visitor and School Nurse, continues the good work she has done for the past six years.

2. CO-ORDINATION.

(a) **Infant and Child Welfare.**—Two of the School Nurses also act as Maternity and Child Welfare Nurses ; the School Medical Officer is also Medical Officer to the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres ; satisfactory co-ordination of the work is thus achieved.

(b) **Nursery Schools.**—There are no Nursery Schools in the Borough.

(c) **The Care of Debilitated Children under School Age.**—Debilitated children under school age were assisted under the Milk (Mothers' and Children's) Rescission Order, 1921, either by supplying Milk or supplying Cod Liver Oil and Malt, free, or at cost price, according to circumstances ; also by giving certificates for relief from the Guardians where medical ground

necessitated additional nourishment : 58 such certificates were given by me during the year.

When a child, either of school age or under, is found by the Corporation Medical Staff to require a change of air, suitable arrangements are made in one of the following ways :—(i.) The parents may be able to take the child to the seaside, or to send him to relatives at the seaside or in the country. (ii.) Where such facilities do not exist the case is referred to the Local Invalid Children's Aid Association, which makes the necessary arrangements with Convalescent Homes. A change of air has thus been obtained in every case in which it was recommended.

THE SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE IN RELATION TO PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

3. SCHOOL HYGIENE.

In 1927, considerable alterations were made in the arrangement and staffing of the schools. These alterations were beneficial, but unfortunately included no scheme for improvement in the structure or environment of school buildings, many of which are far from ideal. There is great need for a more modern type of elementary school building in the Borough, to replace several of the old buildings now in use. The question is a wide one, but one which ought not therefore to be shelved. The mental uplift of cheerful, hygienic surroundings is of prime importance to young children : the benefit to health and eyesight to be obtained from bright, sunny, airy classrooms, is patent to everyone. There is no lack of means of transport for scholars now, so that distance from school need be no deterrent.

4. MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

Three age groups were inspected, viz. :—Entrants, Intermediates (8 to 9 years of age) and Leavers (12 years of age and upwards). The total number of Routine Inspections

was 1,245. (See Table I. at end of Report.) In addition, 398 children were medically re-inspected in the schools. At the School Medical Centre, 1,394 special inspections and 444 re-inspections took place. The total number of inspections was therefore 3,481.

The Board's Schedule of Medical Inspection was closely followed.

School inspections were held in the afternoons, arrangements being made for the inspection of 25 children at each session. The parents are invariably notified before an inspection and their presence is requested.

5. FINDINGS OF MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

(a) **Uncleanliness.**—Nine thousand and eighty-two heads were inspected in 1928, and of these only 2.7 per cent. shewed the presence of infestation with vermin or their eggs. This percentage compares very favourably with 14.7 per cent. in 1922, and is the lowest percentage yet recorded. These good results are chiefly due to the excellent work of the School Nurses ; they are also due to the efforts of many of the Head Teachers and to the spread of knowledge of what cleanliness means to health amongst the school children themselves, and their parents. The total number of inspections for the presence of vermin was 9,303 ; of this total, 93 were re-inspections in school and 128 re-inspections made at the School Medical Centre. The Nurses themselves treated at the Centre 14 cases in which the parents for one reason or another found difficulty in clearing the children's heads from nits. Another factor which has tended to reduce the percentage of uncleanliness is the short hair fashion in vogue amongst the senior girls. This enables the hair to be much more easily kept free from infestation and to be cleared rapidly should it occur.

The following Table records the work done by the School Nurses at the routine head inspections, and the conditions

found, as compared with the years 1927 and 1922, the year in which a vigorous campaign was started.

INSPECTIONS OF HEADS FOR YEAR 1928.

SCHOOL.	No. of Heads inspected.	No. in whom Nits only were found.	No. in whom Vermin found (head or body).	Percentage of Nits or Vermin found, 1928.	Percentage of Nits or Vermin found, 1927.	Percentage of Nits or Vermin found, 1922.
St. James', Boys ...	495	—	—	0.0	1.6	5.2
„ Girls ...	391	9	3	3.07	5.1	8.6
„ Infants ...	581	3	—	0.51	1.2	5.8
St. Barnabas', Jun. M'd	805	24	1	3.1	7.7	—
„ Infants ...	363	12	—	3.3	4.9	14.4
St. John's Jun. Mixed	476	8	3	2.3	1.7	—
Down Lane ...	320	6	4	3.1	4.2	8.9
St. Luke's ...	313	13	9	7.0	10.9	20.6
St. Augustine's ...	353	15	4	5.4	10.7	31.3
Grosvenor ...	379	—	—	0.0	0.4	7.7
Royal Victoria ...	329	5	—	1.5	2.1	4.7
Basinghall ...	608	12	3	2.5	3.4	15.6
Holy Trinity ...	249	14	3	6.8	7.5	24.9
St. Peter's, Jun. Mixed	382	9	3	3.1	6.8	—
„ Infants ...	236	11	4	6.3	3.1	28.8
Rusthall, Boys ...	540	6	—	1.1	2.8	10.9
„ Girls ...	513	26	3	5.6	6.0	28.0
„ Infants ...	449	13	2	3.3	5.3	13.8
Murray House ...	368	3	—	0.8	2.0	4.7
King Charles' ...	383	—	—	0.0	0.3	1.3
Christ Church ...	328	8	—	2.4	3.7	34.2
St. Mark's, Jun. Mixed	197	4	—	2.5	4.7	19.3
Delicate Class ...	24	—	—	0.0	—	—
TOTALS ...	9,082	201	42	2.7	4.3	14.7

Every effort is made to advise and aid parents in getting children cleared of the trouble as soon as it is found. It was not found necessary to resort to prosecution in any case during 1928.

(b) **Minor Ailments.**—Under this heading, which includes cuts, abrasions, (e) skin disease and (f) external eye disease, 310 cases were seen during the year; of these, 128 were cases of skin disease and 31 were cases of external eye disease.

(c) **Tonsils and Adenoids.**—Three hundred and seventy-one children were noted as having enlarged tonsils ; 29 others had adenoid growths, and 262 had enlargement of tonsils and adenoids, while 32 suffered from other conditions of the nose and throat. These large figures point to the continuance of unhealthy factors in the lives of the children tending to produce re-action and overgrowth of tissues normally small, in an attempt to deal with attacking poisons. I am of opinion that more fresh air and less dust both in the homes and in the school buildings, will go far towards diminishing the overgrowth of tissue in the breathing passages, though much of it is doubtless due to our moist climate, coupled with our use of dust-producing open coal fires for domestic heating.

(d) **Tuberculosis.**—Eleven cases of tuberculosis were found amongst the children inspected, and of these one was a case of tuberculosis of the lungs. In addition, 3 suspected cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were seen.

(g) **Vision.**—Ninety-nine cases of defective vision and 12 cases of squint were detected, all being referred to the Ophthalmic Surgeon for the necessary treatment.

(h) **Ear Disease and Hearing.**—Defective hearing was noted in 16 cases, disease of the middle ear in 19, and other diseases in 23 cases. These cases were referred to Dr. Walker Wood, the Aural Surgeon, who attended once each month at the School Clinic to see children referred to him.

(i) **Dental Defects.**—Eight hundred and thirteen children were noted to be suffering from dental diseases. A few of the most urgent of these were referred directly to the School Dental Surgeon, most of whose patients are selected by himself at the School Dental Inspections for treatment. Others were advised to have dental treatment elsewhere, facilities for such treatment being explained to the parents. At Routine Medical Inspections 761 out of 1,245 children inspected had defective teeth, a percentage of 61.1.

(j) **Crippling Defects.**—Thirty children were found to be suffering from crippling defects. At the end of the year three of these were being educated at Certified Residential Schools and 21 attended ordinary Schools. One was attending a small voluntary class held by Miss Tritton for delicate children, one attended Tonbridge Special School and 3 were at no school or institution.

6. INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The accompanying Table records the incidence of various infectious diseases amongst school children during the year :—

Scarlet Fever.		Enteric Fever.		Diphtheria.		German Measles.		Measles.		Whooping Cough.		Chicken Pox.		Mumps.	
Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
35	27	—	1	7	18	6	4	1	1	55	61	93	100	7	5

No school child died from these diseases during the year.

Action taken under 53 (b) of the Code.—Nine hundred and ninety-two notices were sent from this department to the Head Teachers of schools, excluding children under Article 53 (b) and an equal number of freeing notices were sent in due course.

7. FOLLOWING UP.

The following up of children is undertaken chiefly by the home visits of School Nurses : also at the School Clinic, where children frequently come for re-inspection by the Medical Officer. The School Nurses' work in 1928 included the following :—

Visits to Houses where the following Diseases have occurred.	1st Visits.	2nd Visits.	TOTAL
Scarlet Fever	5	4	9
Diphtheria	1	2	3
Measles	3	9	12
German Measles	18	12	30
Mumps	16	31	47
Whooping Cough	131	150	281
Chicken Pox	219	227	446
Sore Throat	17	1	18
Ringworm (scalp)	2	—	2
„ (body)	1	—	1
Verminous Heads	22	6	28
Verminous Bodies	—	—	—
Impetigo Contagiosa	14	8	22
Scabies	12	6	18
Infectious Eye Disease	—	—	—
Other Diseases	23	100	123
Totals	484	556	1,040

Visits paid to Elementary Schools for Medical Inspections	58
Number of Children prepared for Medical Inspections and Re-inspections	1,643
Number of Children prepared for Dental Inspection ...	1,826
Visits paid to Elementary Schools for Dental Inspections ...	28
Other Visits to Elementary Schools for Head Inspections ...	89
Other Visits to Elementary Schools	191
Home Visits arising out of Medical Inspections and for other information	2,630
Cultures taken	112
Number of Heads Inspected	9,303
„ „ found with Nits only	274
„ „ „ „ Vermin	53
Number of Children found with Body Vermin	0

8. MEDICAL TREATMENT.

(a) **Minor Ailments.**—One hundred and fifty-one cases of minor ailments amongst the school children were treated during 1928 ; of these 135 were treated at the School Medical Centre, making 1,519 attendances ; the remaining 16 were treated elsewhere.

(b) **Tonsils and Adenoids.**—One hundred and sixty-nine children suffering from enlarged tonsils or adenoid growths or both, received operative treatment ; 109 of these operations were performed under the Local Education Authority's arrangements with the hospitals. The average sum paid for these operations by the parents was seven shillings and

sixpence. The total number recommended for treatment was 336 ; 51 per cent. were actually treated, 169 by operation and three by other forms of treatment.

I am of opinion that the large number of children who now have their noses and throats freed from unhealthy conditions is a valuable factor in reducing the incidence of infectious disease. It is also bound to diminish the number and severity of catarrhal infections which sweep through the schools during the wetter months.

(c) **Tuberculosis.**—All suspected or definite cases of this disease are referred for medical treatment—mostly to the Tuberculosis Officer ; they are also carefully followed up to see that all obtain treatment. The number of cases was eleven.

(d) **Skin Disease.**—One hundred and twenty-eight cases of disease of the skin were found at Routine and Special Inspections as compared with 100 in 1927, 104 in 1926, and 103 in 1925. One hundred and seven of these were classed as requiring treatment, 60 being treated at the Clinic and 10 being known to have had treatment elsewhere.

(e) **External Eye Disease.**—Thirty-one cases as compared with 21 in 1927 were detected, and of the 17 recommended treatment 11 were treated at the School Clinic.

(f) **Vision.**—Ninety-nine defects of vision and 12 cases of squint were found in the course of inspections. One hundred and six of these were referred to the Ophthalmic Surgeon, from whom they received suitable treatment. At the School Clinic 558 attendances were made to see Dr. Davies ; in addition 267 attendances were made for atropine and other treatment for the eyes. Four children had operations at the Eye and Ear Hospital for squint.

(g) **Ear Disease and Hearing.**—All cases were referred to Dr. Walker Wood, who is in attendance at the School

Clinic on the first Monday in each month. Urgent cases were sent to see him at the Eye and Ear Hospital with a personal note. Minor defects, such as wax in the ear and eczema of the external channel, were treated at the School Clinic. One hundred and fifty-seven attendances were made at the School Clinic to see Dr. Walker Wood, and six hundred and thirty-two attendances were made for treatment.

Appended is a report of the work done by the Aural Surgeon :—

REPORT OF AURAL SURGEON.

Total number of cases examined, 139.

Ear.

Fifty-three children were referred to me on account of deafness or other aural defects. This is an increase of 17 over last year and does not include cases of simple "earache" due to adenoids or cases of acute middle-ear trouble in School children treated at the Eye and Ear Hospital by operation.

Causes of Deafness.

1. Discharging ears, 23. Of these 12 were cured either by local treatment at the Clinic or by Ionisation at the Eye and Ear Hospital. The remainder are still under treatment.

2. Eustachian obstruction, 8. The deafness in these cases is usually quickly cured by attention to the nose and throat, removal of enlarged or septic tonsils and adenoids. After operation the children attend at the Clinic for regular inflation of the ear, which is carried out by the School-nurse. This after-care has proved very valuable.

3. Wax in the ear, 6. All cured.

4. Chronic Middle-ear catarrh, 4. Cases still under treatment.

5. External otitis, 3. All cured by local treatment.
6. Acute Middle-ear catarrh, 3. All cured.
7. Acute Otitis media, 3. Two required operation at the Eye and Ear Hospital.
8. Eczema of the Ear, 2. Cured.
9. Aural Polypus, 1. Cured by operation at Hospital.

Nose.

Fourteen cases were referred for examination on account of nasal obstruction. While most of these cases were due to adenoids, other causes found were deformities of the nasal septum and hypertrophic rhinitis. Most of these cases have been treated at the Eye and Ear Hospital by operation or other means. The results have mostly been satisfactory.

Cases of asthma, nose bleeding and purulent nasal discharges have also been under treatment.

Throat.

Sixty cases were specially referred to me by the School Medical Officers on account of "growing pains," recurrent colds, headaches. In 38 cases the children were found to have septic tonsils, in 17 cases there was simple enlargement of the tonsil with adenoids.

One case of Granular pharyngitis and one case of Chronic Laryngitis were also treated.

Glands in Neck. Nine cases of glands in neck (Cervical adenitis) also came under treatment. One case was found to be Tubercular.

(h) **Dental Defects.**—The School Dental Surgeon, whose work has increased since April, 1927, by the addition of three

half-days per month, devoted 28 half-days to inspections in the schools, and 135 half-days to treatment at the Centre. The total number of children inspected was 1,826, of whom 88 per cent. were found to require treatment. Eight hundred and eight were actually treated, making 1,437 attendances as compared with 739 actually treated the previous year. It is still difficult to persuade some parents whose children are not actually suffering from toothache that commencing decay needs attention, but it is hoped by suitable propaganda work that the number of such parents will gradually diminish. Fees charged for treatment at the Clinic are one shilling for gas administration and sixpence per child treated. The aim of the Dental Surgeon's work is to save teeth wherever possible, thus according with the aim of the Board of Education.

The details of the Dental Surgeon's work are given in Table IV., Group IV.

(i) **Crippling Defects and Orthopaedics.**—On 1st April, 1928, an Orthopaedic Clinic was established under the auspices of the Local Education Authority. Arrangements were made with the General Hospital, Tunbridge Wells, which possesses a well-equipped treatment centre with apparatus for remedial exercises, has facilities for ultra-violet ray treatment, and retains the services of a skilled masseuse as well as those of a nurse specially qualified in Remedial Exercises treatment. Dr. Cecil Horder was appointed Orthopaedic Surgeon, to direct the treatment of children referred to him by the School Medical Officers. Dr. Horder attends each Wednesday at the General Hospital to see children referred to him by the School Medical Staff. It was found that many of the school children who required remedial exercises, massage and other forms of treatment, were already obtaining it, having been sent to the Hospital by their own medical attendants, sometimes after a reference to their doctors by the School Medical Staff. These did not come within the

scope of the scheme, but ten fresh children were sent for treatment ; two from the Child Welfare Centre, of whom one subsequently attended as a school child, and eight other school children. Two of these ten children received treatment as in-patients, one for a period of eleven days in the General Hospital, and the other in the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, London, for some weeks.

The number of out-patient attendances for treatment recommended by the Orthopaedic Surgeon was as follows :—

		<i>Massage.</i>	<i>Electro-massage.</i>	<i>Remedial Exercises.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
During quarter ended	June ...	21	20	96	137
„	„ „ Sept. ...	22	13	55	90
„	„ „ Dec. ...	41	14	56	111
		—	—	—	—
		84	47	207	338
		=====	=====	=====	=====

Five crippled children were in residential institutions at the end of the year. Of these, two boys and one girl were receiving both education and treatment at the Heritage Craft Schools, Chailey, Sussex. Two boys were receiving treatment at the Royal Sea Bathing Hospital, Margate.

9. OPEN-AIR EDUCATION.

Pending the completion of the arrangements for the provision of an Open-Air School—referred to in the preface to this Report—Miss Tritton and her friends have continued to provide voluntarily for the instruction and care of a few of the more delicate amongst the school population ; these are under the tuition of Miss Wilson. Through the kindness of Mrs. Duncanson, the class meets in “ Bredbury,” Mount Ephraim, and is held daily from 10 a.m. to 12.15 p.m. Thirty-one children attended during the year—four throughout the whole year—and the remainder for a session or longer. All benefited in health, giving some indication of the extent of the improvement in this respect which it is anticipated true open-air conditions will bring about.

10. PHYSICAL TRAINING.

There is no specially appointed Director of Physical Training in Tunbridge Wells, and it is left to the Head Teachers to organise this branch of education to the best of their ability. So far, owing to the lack of any organised physical training arrangements, the work has not been closely associated with the School Medical Service. In every case in which a child's health is such as to impede or prevent his undertaking drill or severe physical exercises, notice to this effect is given to the Head Teacher at the time of inspection

11. PROVISION OF MEALS.

No action was taken by the Education Authority in this respect, but suitable extra nourishment is provided in cases of malnutrition by supplying milk in school or by other methods ; payment for the nourishment provided is made either by funds at the disposal of the Managers' Committee, or from a voluntary fund raised by the School Medical Staff. It has always been found possible to obtain the additional nourishment by one or other means when required.

12. SCHOOL BATHS.

The following are the arrangements made by the Baths Committee for School Children at the Tunbridge Wells Corporation Baths and at the Open-Air Baths during the summer months :—

Open-Air and Indoor Swimming Baths.—The Baths Committee of the Town Council have arranged to admit scholars from the Elementary Schools in the Borough when in charge of a teacher and bringing their own towels, free of charge to the Baths ; the accompanying teacher is also admitted free of charge. For these privileges the Education Committee pays the Baths Committee a sum of ten shillings per week for the services of a swimming instructor and a payment of a half-penny in respect of each scholar admitted

to the Open-Air Bath during school hours, and a sum of one penny for each scholar admitted to the Indoor Bath during school hours, on any week day save Monday. The swimming instructor is available at the Open-Air Bath from June to August, and during the remaining nine months of the year at the Indoor Bath. The number of attendances has again risen considerably, being 16,877. Tests are made, and elementary and proficiency certificates are given to scholars who pass the necessary tests to the satisfaction of the Baths Superintendent.

During 1928, 83 boys and 56 girls obtained the Elementary Certificate, and 24 boys and 14 girls the Proficiency Certificate. In addition 7 girls qualified for the Royal Life Saving Society Certificate.

13. CO-OPERATION OF PARENTS.

Postcards are prepared in the Health Offices and are sent to the Head Teacher prior to the holding of a Medical Inspection, for address and distribution to the parents, requesting their attendance. The percentage of parents attending at the inspections shows a marked increase and was as follows :—88 per cent. (79 per cent. in 1927), attended at the inspection of infants ; 60 per cent. (50 per cent. in 1927) at the inspection of senior boys ; and 73 per cent. (64 per cent. in 1927) at the inspection of senior girls.

14. CO-OPERATION OF TEACHERS.

(i.) MEDICAL INSPECTION.—The Head Teacher is present at Medical Inspections and is informed of all cases in which special care is required on account of the child's physical condition. The Head Teachers have evinced in many ways a keen interest in the health of the pupils committed to their charge and have co-operated accordingly with

the School Medical Staff in endeavours to keep the general standard of health at a high level.

(ii.) FOLLOWING-UP.—The Head Teachers keep in touch with the School Nurses and frequently add their advice and counsel to the parents in the matter of obtaining treatment where defects call for it.

(iii.) MEDICAL TREATMENT OF THE CHILDREN.—The Head Teachers are all informed of the advisability of sending any child who appears to be below his usual state of health to the School Medical Centre in cases where the child is not already receiving private medical attention. The power to send children to the Centre is vested in the School Medical Staff, Head Teachers, School Attendance Officer or parents. In order to facilitate the recording of school attendances a card is issued to allow of the time spent at the medical treatment centre to be recorded for school attendance purposes. This arrangement is much appreciated by the teachers, as it dispenses with loss of attendance marks on such occasion.

15. CO-OPERATION OF SCHOOL ATTENDANCE OFFICER.

The School Attendance Officer whose office is situated at the Town Hall, keeps in constant touch with the School Medical Department and co-operation is cordial and complete.

16. CO-OPERATION OF VOLUNTARY BODIES.

(i.) No call is made upon voluntary bodies in connection with the work of medical inspection.

(ii.) In following-up mentally defective children, the Kent Voluntary Association for Mental Welfare does useful work. The Occupation Centre established by the Association, met at the Belgrave Rooms, Goods Station Road, throughout the year on four days weekly from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Children of the imbecile class and a few low-grade feeble-minded

REPORT ON WORK FOR THE YEAR 1911.

Transferred to County M.D. Committee

Transferred to County M.D. Committee for Statutory Supervision	...	...	...	2
Transferred to County M.D. Committee for Friendly Supervision	...	...	...	1
Transferred to County M.D. Committee placed under Guardianship	...	...	...	1
These are now visited for County M.D. Committee.				4

Attending Elementary School

Attending Elementary School	...	...	...	8
Attending Tonbridge Special School	...	...	...	11
At Residential Special School	...	...	...	1
Attending no School	...	...	...	3

al number of children of school age under

the supervision of the Association, December	—
31st, 1928	23

Reports and Visits.

Twenty-six reports have been rendered during the current year, including 24 Annual Reports and 2 Special Reports with recommendations for Friendly Supervision and Statutory Supervision.

Visits by Members of the Staff.

Forty visits to the homes of the children, 8 interviews with School Masters and Mistresses when the children are also seen have been paid by members of the Staff and approximately 36 home visits by voluntary visitors.

After Care.

The fact that cases are reported to the Association by the School Medical Officer at an early age enables good work to be done when the children leave school as well as during the previous years. The parents and children look upon the visitors as friends who are anxious to help in whatever way is possible. Assistance and advice has been given to girls desirous of obtaining domestic employment. One lad for whom, owing to defect and consequent difficult habits, it would be impossible to find employment, is in regular attendance at the Occupation Centre.

Guardianship Scheme.

The Association has, at the instance of the County Mental Deficiency Committee, developed a Guardianship Scheme as an alternative to institutional care. By means of the Scheme children are placed in homes in the neighbourhood of one of the Association's Occupation Centres and young people of 16 years and over are placed with employer guardians with a view to providing them, where possible, with domestic, farm or garden work. Two cases from the Borough have been placed under this Scheme. A lad who had attended the Tonbridge Special School is doing quite satisfactorily with garden and housework and a girl from a Residential Special School has been transferred direct to a Guardian and it is

hoped that later she may be capable of undertaking some simple domestic work.

(iii.) The local branch of the Invalid Children's Aid Association is appealed to when it is desired to get a child to a Convalescent Home, and the arrangements are made by the Secretary of the I.C.A. This has been of great help in the medical treatment of invalid children, and I am glad to have this opportunity of acknowledging indebtedness to the Society for this work. Thirty-six children were assisted in 1928, of these twenty-one were sent to Convalescent Homes, etc., twelve were given nourishment at their homes or in school, and three were helped in purchasing glasses, etc. The Surgical Aid Society provides letters—each of the value of five shillings—in cases where glasses have been recommended to children whose parents have been found on investigation to require such assistance. In 16 out of 68 cases assistance was given in 1928.

17. BLIND, DEAF, DEFECTIVE AND EPILEPTIC CHILDREN.

These children are brought to notice through the Health Visitors and School Teachers and also through the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres. No special schools for such children exist in the Tunbridge Wells area, but under arrangements made by the Education Committee the following children have been dealt with.

(a) BLIND.—One boy and one girl inmates of certified schools for the blind at Brighton. Two other children who are suffering from marked short-sightedness are attending ordinary Elementary Schools.

(b) DEAF.—Two children who are too deaf to benefit from ordinary Elementary School training are inmates of a certified school for the deaf in Brighton.

There are also 11 partially deaf children attending

ordinary school all of whom have been or are under the care of your Aural Surgeon.

(c) MENTALLY DEFECTIVE.—Nine examinations of fresh children presented for mental defects were made during 1928, the children being classed as follows :—Five dull or backward, two feeble-minded within the Meaning of the Mental Deficiency Acts, and two imbecile. In addition, amongst a number of children re-inspected, three formerly classed as feeble-minded have now been placed in the imbecile class.

Two boys, certified as feeble-minded, were, on 31st December, 1928, residents of institutions for training the mentally deficient, the Local Education Authority being responsible for their maintenance. Three boys and two girls were notified to the Local Control Authority as imbecile during the year. One girl, attaining the age of sixteen years, was notified as in need of further supervision.

The arrangements for sending feeble-minded children to the Tonbridge Special School as daily pupils, begun in the autumn of 1925, proved satisfactory, and twelve places were taken for Tunbridge Wells children in 1928. The 'bus takes the children daily to and from the school door, a distance of four and a half miles from Tunbridge Wells.

Besides the 12 feeble-minded children attending the Special School, six such children are attending ordinary school in Tunbridge Wells, while one girl is receiving special education in the class for mental defectives at Pembury Union.

(d) EPILEPTIC.—One boy is being maintained and educated at an Epileptic Colony, the Local Education Authority being responsible for his maintenance. In addition seven cases of epilepsy, none severe, are attending the Public Elementary Schools.

(e) PHYSICALLY DEFECTIVE.—Under this heading, at the end of the year were classed 108 children (see Table III.).

Of these 81 were attending Public Elementary Schools. Under the Local Education Authority's arrangements, three were being educated at the Certified Residential School at Chailey, Sussex; of ten children who suffered from Tuberculosis, six attended school, three were in an institution, and one was at no school. Sixteen children were attending the open-air class held in "Bredbury," and four other physically defective children were not attending any school or institution.

18. NURSERY : 19. SECONDARY : AND 20. CONTINUATION SCHOOLS.

There are no Nursery Schools in the Borough and the arrangements for Medical Service in the Secondary and Continuation Schools are undertaken by the County Council.

21. EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS.

Employment of Elementary School children is not of considerable extent and takes the shape of doing paper rounds, occasionally errand rounds on Saturdays, and acting as houseboys in a few instances. During 1928, 90 certificates were granted to fresh children.

The physical condition of the children applying for employment has been good, and in only seven instances has a certificate been refused on medical grounds to applicants.

22. STATISTICAL TABLES.

The four Statistical Tables required by the Board of Education are appended, and these give detailed information of the work done in the various branches of the School Medical Service.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F. C. LINTON.

TABLE I.—Return of Medical Inspections.**A.—ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.**

Number of Code Group Inspections—

Entrants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	434
Intermediates	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	371
Leavers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	364
<hr/>									
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1169
Number of other Routine Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	76
<hr/>									
									1245

B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Number of Special Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	1394
Number of Re-Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	842
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	<hr/>2236
Grand Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	<hr/>3481 <hr/>

TABLE II.

A.—RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND BY MEDICAL INSPECTION IN THE YEAR
ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1928.

DEFECT OR DISEASE.	ROUTINE INSPECTIONS.		SPECIAL INSPECTIONS.	
	No. of Defects.		No. of Defects.	
	Requiring Treat- ment.	Requiring to be kept under ob- servation, but <i>not</i> requiring Treatment	Requiring Treat- ment.	Requiring to be kept under ob- servation, but <i>not</i> requiring Treatment.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Malnutrition	27	9	12	3
Uncleanliness : (See Table IV., Group V.)	—	—	—	—
Skin—				
Ringworm—Scalp	1	—	5	—
Body	—	—	2	—
Scabies	—	—	6	—
Impetigo	1	3	54	2
Other Diseases (Non-Tuberculous)	—	6	38	10
Eye—				
Blepharitis	1	4	9	1
Conjunctivitis	—	1	3	—
Keratitis	—	—	—	—
Corneal Opacities	—	4	1	—
Defective Vision (excluding Squint)	93	3	3	—
Squint	8	2	2	—
Other Conditions	2	3	1	1
Ear—				
Defective Hearing	2	4	10	—
Otitis Media	3	3	13	—
Other Ear Diseases	—	18	4	1
Nose and Throat—				
Enlarged Tonsils only	94	210	47	20
Adenoids only	7	14	7	1
Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids	115	96	48	3
Other Conditions	—	5	18	9
Enlarged Cervical Glands (Non-Tuberculous)	—	389	11	4
Defective Speech	—	1	—	—
Teeth—Dental Diseases	90	671	46	6
(See Table IV., Group IV.)				
Heart and Circulation—				
Heart Disease—Organic	—	3	1	1
Functional	—	29	—	2
Anæmia	—	11	—	—
Lungs—				
Bronchitis	—	3	11	—
Other Non-Tuberculous Diseases	1	1	—	—
Tuberculosis—				
Pulmonary—Definite	1	—	—	1
Suspected	—	—	2	1
Non-Pulmonary—Glands	1	4	1	2
Spine	1	—	—	—
Hip	—	—	—	—
Other Bones and Joints	—	—	—	—
Skin	1	—	—	—
Other Forms	—	—	—	—
Nervous System—				
Epilepsy	1	—	2	—
Chorea	—	1	3	2
Other Conditions	—	10	4	1
Deformities—				
Rickets	—	5	2	1
Spinal Curvature	1	6	1	—
Other Forms	—	6	3	2
Other Defects and Diseases	7	30	94	20

TABLE II.—continued.

B.—NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL CHILDREN FOUND AT ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTION TO REQUIRE TREATMENT (EXCLUDING UNCLEANLINESS AND DENTAL DISEASES)

GROUP. (1)	NUMBER OF CHILDREN.		Percentage of Children found to require Treatment. (4)
	Inspected. (2)	Found to require Treatment. (3)	
CODE GROUPS:—			
Entrants	434	143	32.9
Intermediates	371	137	36.9
Leavers	364	100	27.5
Total (Code Groups)	1169	380	32.5
Other Routine Inspections	76	18	23.7

TABLE III.

RETURN OF ALL EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN IN THE AREA.

—	—	—	Boys	Girls.	Total.
BLIND (including partially blind)	(i) Suitable for training in a School or Class for the totally blind.	Attending Certified Schools or Classes for the Blind ...	1	1	2
		Attending Public Elementary Schools	—	—	—
		At other Institutions	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution ...	—	—	—
	(ii.) Suitable for training in a School or Class for the partially blind.	Attending Certified Schools or Classes for the Blind ...	—	—	—
		Attending Public Elementary Schools	1	1	2
		At other Institutions	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution ...	—	—	—
DEAF (including deaf and dumb and partially deaf).	(i.) Suitable for training in a School or Class for the totally deaf or deaf and dumb.	Attending Certified Schools or Classes for the Deaf	1	1	2
		Attending Public Elementary Schools	—	—	—
		At other Institutions	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution ...	—	—	—
	(ii.) Suitable for training in a School or Class for the partially deaf.	Attending Certified Schools or Classes for the Deaf	—	—	—
		Attending Public Elementary Schools	5	6	11
		At other Institutions	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution ...	—	—	—
MENTALLY DE- FECTIVE.	Feeble-minded (cases not notifiable to the Local Control Authority).	Attending Certified Schools for Mentally Defective Children	9	6	15
		Attending Public Elementary Schools	2	4	6
		At other Institutions	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution ...	—	—	—
	Notified to the Local Control Authority <i>during the year</i> .	Feeble-minded	—	1	1
		Imbeciles	3	2	5
		Idiots	—	—	—

TABLE III.—continued.

			Boys	Girls	Total
EPILEPTICS.	Suffering from severe epilepsy.	Attending Certified Special Schools for Epileptics ...	1	—	1
		In Institutions other than Certified Special Schools ...	—	—	—
		Attending Public Elementary Schools ...	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution ...	—	—	—
PHYSICALLY DEFECTIVE	Suffering from epilepsy which is not severe.	Attending Public Elementary Schools ...	5	2	7
		At no School or Institution ...	—	—	—
	Infectious pulmonary and glandular tuberculosis	At Sanatoria or Sanatorium Schools approved by the Ministry of Health or the Board ...	—	—	—
		At other Institutions ...	1	—	1
		At no School or Institution ...	—	—	—
	Non-infectious but active pulmonary and glandular tuberculosis.	At Sanatoria or Sanatorium Schools approved by the Ministry of Health or the Board ...	—	—	—
		At Certified Residential Open-Air Schools ...	—	—	—
		At Certified Day Open-Air Schools ...	—	—	—
		At Public Elementary Schools ...	—	—	—
		At other Institutions ...	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution ...	—	1	1
	Delicate children (<i>e.g.</i> , pre- or latent tuberculosis, malnutrition, debility, anæmia, etc.).	At Certified Residential Open-Air Schools ...	—	—	—
		At Certified Day Open-Air Schools ...	—	—	—
		At Public Elementary Schools ...	25	29	54
		At other Institutions ...	6	9	15
		At no School or Institution ...	—	—	—
	Active non-pulmonary tuberculosis.	At Sanatoria or Hospital Schools approved by the Ministry of Health or the Board ...	—	—	—
		At Public Elementary Schools ...	2	4	6
		At other Institutions ...	2	—	2
		At no School or Institution ...	—	—	—
	Crippled Children (other than those with active tuberculous disease), <i>e.g.</i> , children suffering from paralysis, etc., and including those with severe heart disease.	At Certified Hospital Schools ...	—	—	—
		At Certified Residential Cripple Schools ...	2	1	3
		At Certified Day Cripple Schools ...	—	—	—
		At Public Elementary Schools ...	8	13	21
		At other Institutions ...	1	1*	2
		At no School or Institution ...	3	—	3

* Also included in Feeble-minded class, attending Special School for mentally defectives,

TABLE IV.

RETURN OF DEFECTS TREATED DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1928.

TREATMENT TABLE.

GROUP I.—MINOR AILMENTS (excluding Uncleanliness, for which see Group V.)

Disease or Defect.		Number of Defects treated, or under treatment during the year.		
(1)		Under the Authority's Scheme. (2)	Otherwise. (3)	Total (4)
<i>Skin—</i>				
Ringworm-Scalp	...	5	—	5
Ringworm-Body	...	4	—	4
Scabies ...	...	5	2	7
Impetigo ...	...	46	—	46
Other skin disease	...	20	8	28
Minor Eye Defects—	...	11	—	11
(External and other, but excluding cases falling in Group II.)	...			
Minor Ear Defects	...	2	—	2
Miscellaneous	...	42	6	48
(e.g., minor injuries, bruises, sores, chilblains, etc.)	...			
Total	...	135	16	151

TABLE IV.—continued.

GROUP II.—DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT (excluding Minor Eye Defects treated as Minor Ailments—Group I.)

Defect or Disease. (1)	No. of Defects dealt with.			Total.
	Under the Authority's Scheme. (2)	Submitted to refraction by private practitioner or at hospital, apart from the Authority's Scheme. (3)	Otherwise. (4)	
Errors of Refraction (including Squint)	177	—	—	177
Other Defect or Disease of the Eyes (excluding those recorded in Group I.)	57	—	—	57
Total	234	—	—	234

Total number of children for whom spectacles were prescribed—
 (a) Under the Authority's Scheme ... 68
 (b) Otherwise ... 0

Total number of children who obtained or received spectacles—
 (a) Under the Authority's Scheme ... 69
 (b) Otherwise ... 16

TABLE IV.—continued.
GROUP III.—TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF NOSE AND THROAT.

NUMBER OF DEFECTS.				
	Received Operative Treatment.		Received other forms of Treatment. (4)	Total number treated. (5)
	Under the Authority's Scheme, in Clinic or Hospital. (1)	By Private Practitioner or Hospital, apart from the Authority's Scheme. (2)	Total. (3)	
109		60	169	172

TABLE IV.—continued.

GROUP IV.—DENTAL DEFECTS.

(1) Number of Children who were:—		(2) Half-days devoted to:—		
(a) Inspected by the Dentist:		Inspection ...	...	28
Aged:		Treatment ...	...	135
Routine Age Groups—		Total	...	163
5	...	140	...	...
6	...	195	...	...
7	...	231	...	...
8	...	236	...	...
9	...	202	...	...
10	...	123	...	...
11	...	144	...	...
12	...	183	...	...
13	...	184	...	...
14	...	99	...	...
Total ...	...	1737	...	1353
Specials	...	89	...	133
Grand Total	...	1826	...	1407
(b) Found to require treatment		...	...	1540
(c) Actually treated	...	...	...	...
(d) Re-treated during the year as the result of periodical examination	...	...	...	...
(5) Extractions:—		...	...	...
Permanent teeth		...	...	...
Temporary teeth		...	...	...
Total		...	...	...
(6) Administrations of general anæsthetics for extractions		...	...	143
(7) Other operations:		...	...	...
Permanent teeth		...	...	60
Temporary teeth		...	...	12
Total		...	...	72

GROUP V.—UNCLEANLINESS AND VERMINOUS CONDITIONS.

(i.)	Average number of visits per school made during the year by the School Nurses	...	...	4.4
(ii.)	Total number of examinations of children in the Schools by School Nurses	...	...	9,175
(iii.)	Number of individual children found unclean	...	...	32
(iv.)	Number of children cleansed under arrangements made by the Local Education Authority	...	...	14
(v.)	Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken:—	...	...	...
	(a) Under the Education Act, 1921	...	...	0
	(b) Under School Attendance Bye-Laws	...	...	0

Number of Children Medically Inspected at each School.

SCHOOL.						GRADE.	BOYS.	GIRLS.
St. James'	...	...	...	...	...	Boys ...	75	—
"	...	...	...	...	...	Girls ...	—	69
"	...	...	...	...	...	Infants	42	36
St. Barnabas'	...	...	...	...	...	Mixed	44	46
"	...	...	...	...	...	Infants	40	37
St. John's	...	...	...	...	...	Mixed ...	30	34
Down Lane	...	...	...	...	...	Infants	16	17
St. Luke's	...	...	...	...	...	Infants	18	21
St. Augustine's	...	...	...	...	...	Mixed ...	42	36
Royal Victoria	...	...	...	...	...	Boys ...	33	—
Grosvenor	...	...	...	...	...	Mixed ...	26	28
Basinghall	...	...	...	...	...	Infants	22	31
Holy Trinity	...	...	...	...	...	Girls ...	—	26
St. Peter's	...	...	...	...	...	Mixed	29	32
"	...	...	...	...	...	Infants	14	13
Murray House	...	...	...	...	...	Girls ...	—	26
King Charles'	...	...	...	...	...	Boys ...	76	—
Christ Church	...	...	...	...	...	Infants	55	56
St. Mark's	...	...	...	...	...	Mixed ...	14	20
Rusthall	...	...	...	...	...	Boys ...	54	—
"	...	...	...	...	...	Girls ...	—	56
"	...	...	...	...	...	Infants	11	20
						TOTAL	641	604

1245

RE-INSPECTIONS :—

Improved	...	133
Stationary	...	153
Cured	...	81
Worse	...	31
		398
TOTAL		1643

1 B.F. 1.9.29

2. State to Hob.

3. P.O.

Yahia

AGC 18/10

H. 11/29